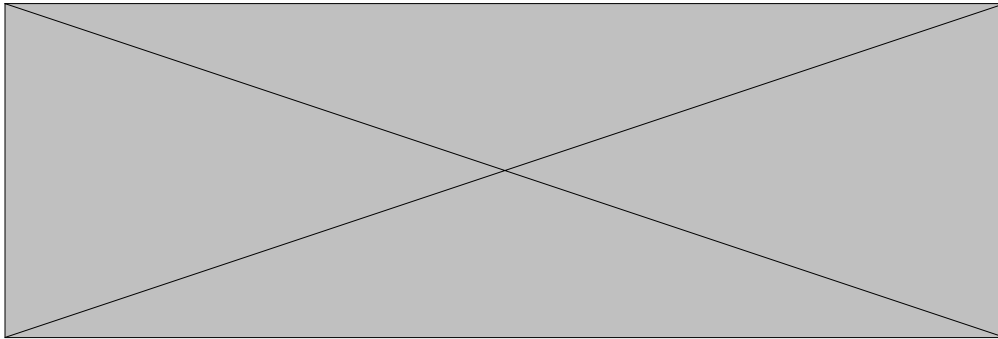


From: Williams, Timothy
Sent: 2017-12-07T16:08:16-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Alaska's Joe Balash Confirmed as Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management
Received: 2017-12-07T16:09:17-05:00



Date: December 7, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Alaska's Joe Balash Confirmed as Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management

WASHINGTON – Today, the U.S. Senate confirmed President Donald J. Trump's nominee, Joe Balash, to serve as the Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management. A native of North Pole, Alaska, living in Washington D.C., Balash brings more than 19 years of experience in land and natural resource management.

"I am so glad we finally have an Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals! It's been a while," **said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke**. "Joe has waited a very long time, and we look forward to his experience being brought to the table at our next meeting. Joe has worked with the Department on a number of projects in Alaska, and his experience will be greatly welcomed. Thank you to the Senate for finally getting Joe to Interior. I'd also like to thank Acting Assistant Secretary Kate MacGregor for doing an amazing job leading the portfolio and making President Trump's first year a banner year for energy dominance and public access."

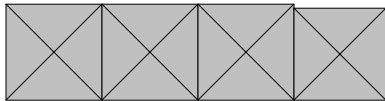
"I am deeply honored to be able to serve at the Department of the Interior," **said Joe Balash**. "As a nation, we are blessed with tremendous public lands and resources that give our people unparalleled opportunities for recreation and job creation for generations to come. I look forward to working with Secretary Zinke and his incredible team to seize on those opportunities and deliver on President Trump's America First Energy Plan."

Joe Balash most recently served as the Chief of Staff to Senator Dan Sullivan (R-Alaska) before his confirmation. He is the former Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, which has management responsibility for one of the largest single portfolios of land and water resources in the world, containing more than 100 million acres of uplands, 40-60

million acres of submerged lands and tidelands, and more than 500,000 barrels of oil produced daily.

The Assistant Secretary heads the Department of the Interior's management of all federal lands and waters, and their associated mineral and non-mineral resources, as well as the appropriate regulation of surface coal mining. The Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management is committed to managing, protecting, and improving lands and waters to serve the needs of the American people at all times.

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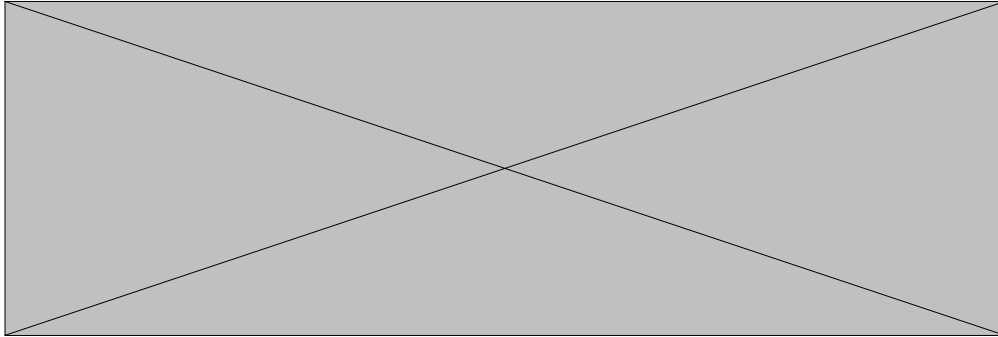


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Tim Williams
Deputy Director External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
Desk: (202) 208-6015
Cell: (202) 706-4982

NOTE: *Every email I send or receive is subject to release under the Freedom of Information Act.*

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-12-12T15:38:19-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretaries Zinke and Perdue Host Inter-Agency Forestry & Wildfire Listening Session with Federal, Congressional and State Stakeholders.
Received: 2017-12-12T15:39:13-05:00



Date: December 12, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

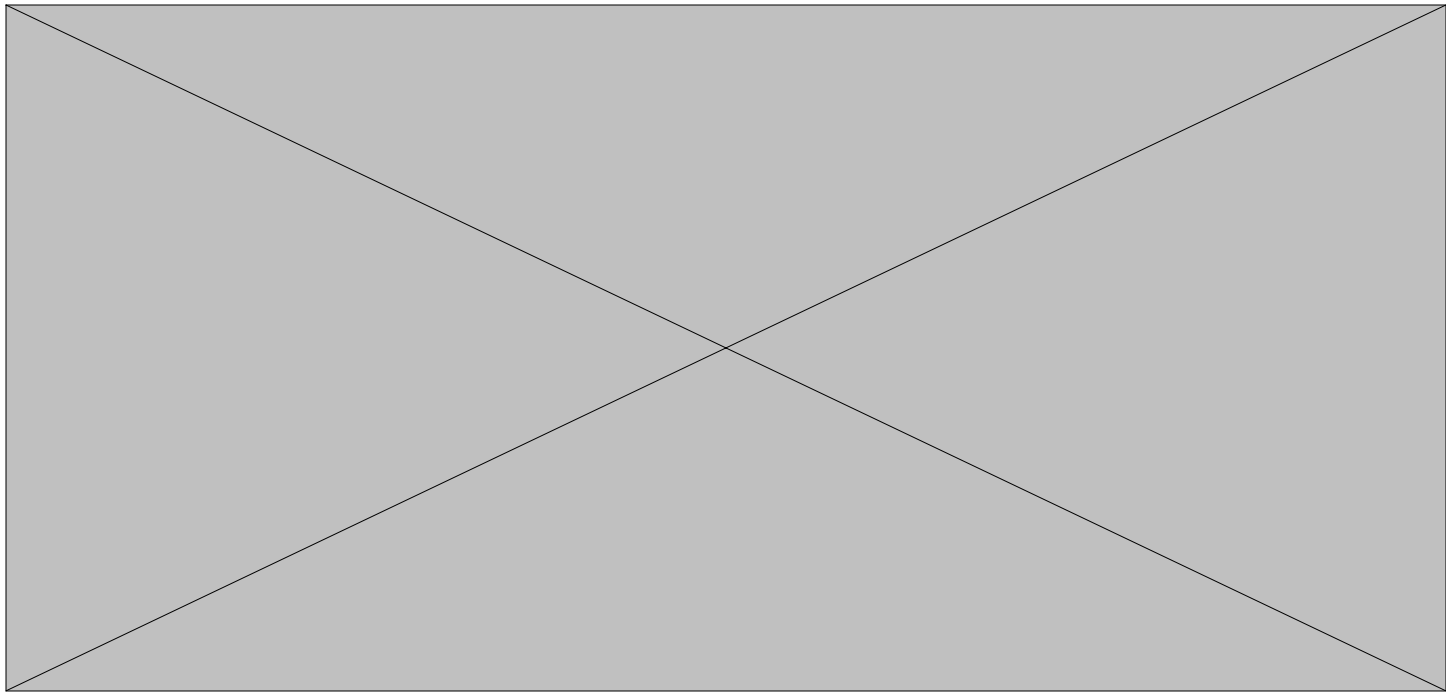
Secretaries Zinke and Perdue Host Inter-Agency Forestry & Wildfire Listening Session with Federal, Congressional and State Stakeholders.

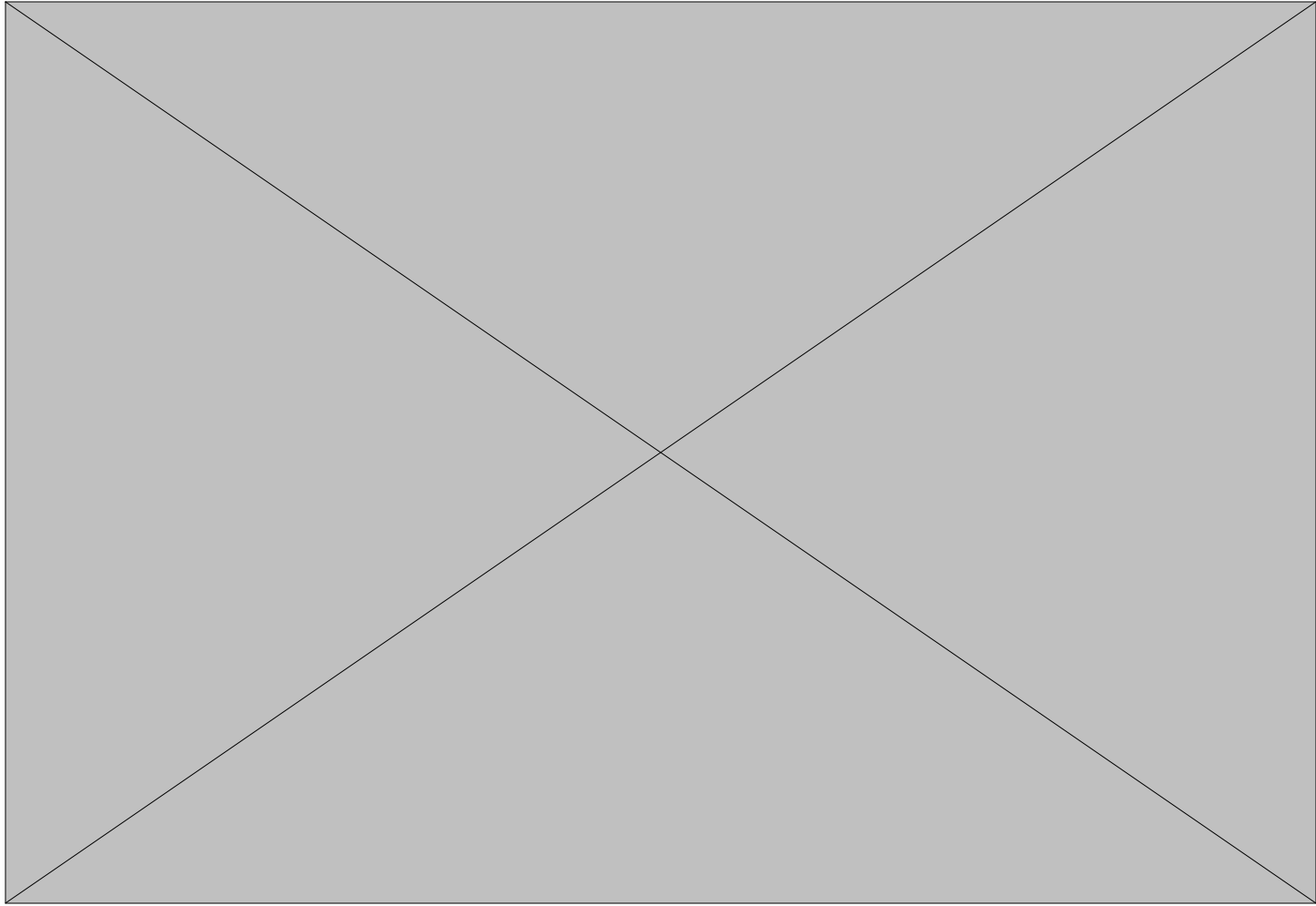
WASHINGTON – Yesterday, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke and U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue hosted an inter-agency listening session with federal, congressional, and state stakeholders. Photos for media use are available [here](#).

"Wildfires affect all of us so it only makes sense that we all work together to prevent and fight them," **said Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke**. "Our inter-agency and partner meeting was the first of what I hope will be many to identify and implement better practices to manage our forests and save lives and communities."

"Yesterday was a good opportunity to reflect on the 2017 fire season, to recognize what did and didn't work, and to collaborate on how we can move forward into 2018," **Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue said**. "With this being the costliest fire season in history, it is clear that we need a permanent fix to fire funding. I'm encouraged by the work being done in Congress and it's imperative that we continue to communicate with stakeholders, so we can figure out how best to work together to manage forests and ultimately prevent fires the best that we can."

Accompanied by House Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop (UT), Congressman Bruce Westerman (AR) and stakeholders representing conservation, hunting, forestry, and state associations, conversation centered around fixing the wildfire funding problems, possible improvements to wildfire management, innovative ways to detect and suppress wildfires, and ways to improve cooperation between industry, state, and federal authorities.





Next steps include figuring out which discussion points could become action items before the next season and sharing them with agency, state, and congressional partners.

A partial list of officials attending today's listening session is below.

Senior Federal Officials

- Secretary Ryan Zinke
- Secretary Sonny Perdue
- Chairman Rob Bishop
- Congressman Bruce Westerman

Federal Officials

- Director of Wildland Fire, Jeff Rupert
- Deputy Assistant Secretary of Public Safety, Resource Protection, Emergency Services, Harry Humbert
- Director of Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bryan Rice
- Acting Director of National Parks, Mike Reynolds

- Principal Deputy Director of the USFWS, Greg Sheehan

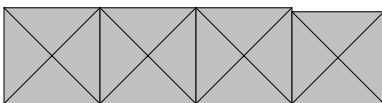
Conservation and Hunting Partners

- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
- Boone and Crockett
- National Wild Turkey Foundation

Forestry Partners

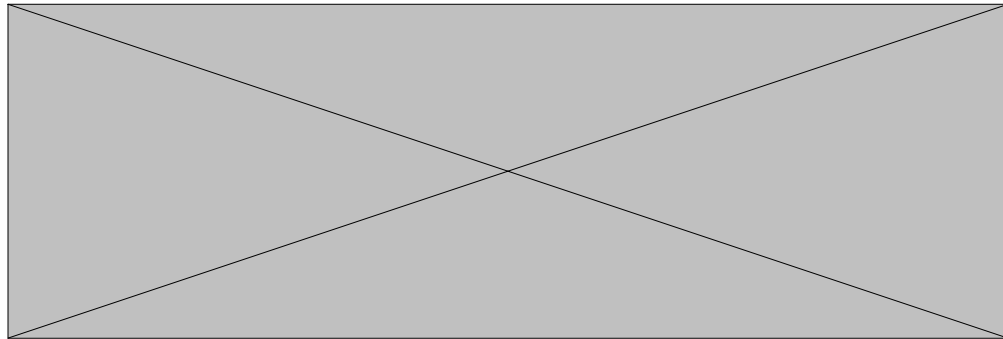
- National Alliance of Forest Owners
- Federal Forest Resource Coalition
- National Association of State Foresters
- American Forest Resource Council
- Montana Wood Products Association
- Intermountain Forest Association
- American Loggers Council
- Public Lands Council
- American Forest Foundation
- Land Owner
- National Association of Homebuilders
- Maine Forest Products Council
- Forest Resource Association
- Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies
- Hardwood Federation

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From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-12-12T16:12:34-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Sends Nearly \$20 Million in Timber Dollars to Rural Oregon, Doubles Down on Commitment to Future Harvests
Received: 2017-12-12T16:13:10-05:00

A previous press release that may have not been sent out...



Date: November 30, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Sends Nearly \$20 Million in Timber Dollars to Rural Oregon, Doubles Down on Commitment to Future Harvests

WASHINGTON – U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke announced today that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will issue payments totaling \$19.5 million to 18 counties in western Oregon, which includes \$1.4 million previously sequestered funds. Under the previous administration, the sequestered funds were not scheduled to be disbursed to the counties however after working with the counties and the Office of Management and Budget, the Secretary was able to deliver the full funding.

"O&C lands were specifically set aside for sustainable timber harvests and they are an important part of the economic foundation of western Oregon," **said Secretary Zinke**. "Working with the county officials we were able to get these much-needed funds to the local communities, but my next priority is ensuring that these lands continue to provide sustainable timber harvests that support the community and strengthen the health of the forest."

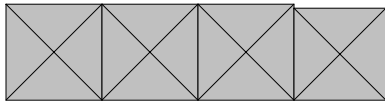
"We are happy to report the 18 O&C Counties will receive these disbursements, including those withheld payments, very soon," **said Commissioner Tim Freeman of Douglas County, the Association of O&C Counties' President**. "We give full credit to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke for his willingness to work with us to persuade OMB to release these sequestered funds. We are also grateful to Congressman Walden for his assistance in facilitating communications between the Association and the Department of the Interior. Every County will use these much-needed

funds for vital services according to their local priorities, from public safety and juvenile programs to elections departments and infrastructure maintenance, and everything in between."

"The announcement that our communities will receive the full timber receipts payments they are owed under the law is great news," **said Chairman Greg Walden.** "These resources will be critical to funding essential county services from law enforcement and emergency operations to schools and infrastructure projects. I want to especially thank Secretary Zinke and his team for working so closely with the O&C counties to ensure these funds are disbursed, and for their continued commitment to improving forest management and supporting our local communities in southern Oregon."

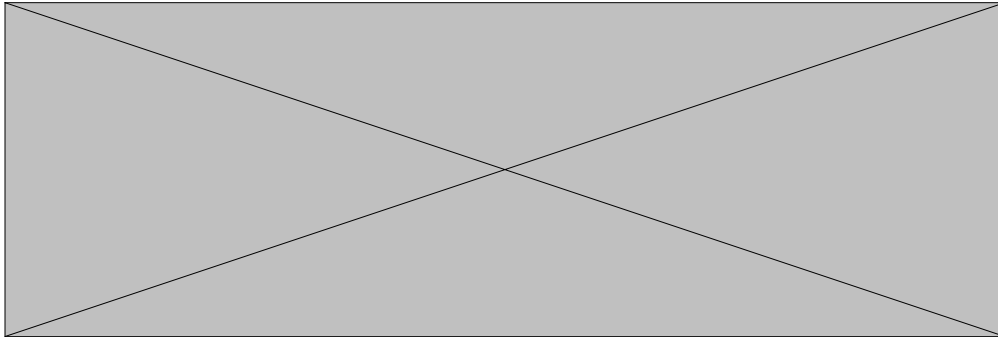
Located in 18 counties of western Oregon, the Oregon and California Railroad Lands comprise nearly 2.6 million acres of forests that is managed by the BLM. The 18 O&C counties receive yearly payments under the O&C Act equal to 50 percent of receipts from timber harvested on public lands in these counties. These payments follow a formula established in the 1937 Oregon and California Lands Act, which authorizes timber receipt-based payments to western Oregon counties, and which remains in effect following the expiration of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act.

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From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-12-13T18:23:15-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Praises President Trump and Congress for Authorizing Palau Compact Agreement in FY 2018 NDAA
Received: 2017-12-13T18:24:04-05:00



Date: December 13, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Praises President Trump and Congress for Authorizing Palau Compact Agreement in FY 2018 NDAA

WASHINGTON – U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke today thanked President Trump and commended the U.S. Congress for including authorization for the Palau Compact Review Agreement in the FY 2018 National Defense Authorization Act. Signed into law yesterday by the President, the enactment officially authorizes the strategic agreement signed between the United States and Palau governments in 2010.

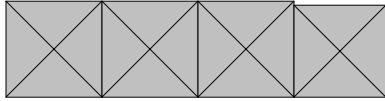
“The U.S. Insular Areas are on the front lines of North Korean aggression and are an important part of the strategic defense for our nation,” **said Secretary Zinke**. “Authorizing full funding for the agreement is an important element of the Pacific national security strategy to maintain stability in the Western Pacific Region and we look forward to continuing our work with Congress to get this job done. President Trump’s strong support for the agreement, the Department’s budget request, and Congress’ support for it all point to the strategic importance of our U.S. Territories and the Freely Associated States. I have served with a number of warriors from the islands and I look forward to visiting the people of Palau in my role as Secretary.”

“Finalization of this agreement with Palau is long overdue,” **said Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Doug Domenech**. “Interior, State and Defense have collaborated extensively in support of the Palau Compact Agreement and we look forward to final action from Congress to provide the appropriations necessary to finalize this important U.S. Government commitment to Palau.”

President Trump called for \$123.9 million to implement the agreement in his proposed budget for FY 2018..

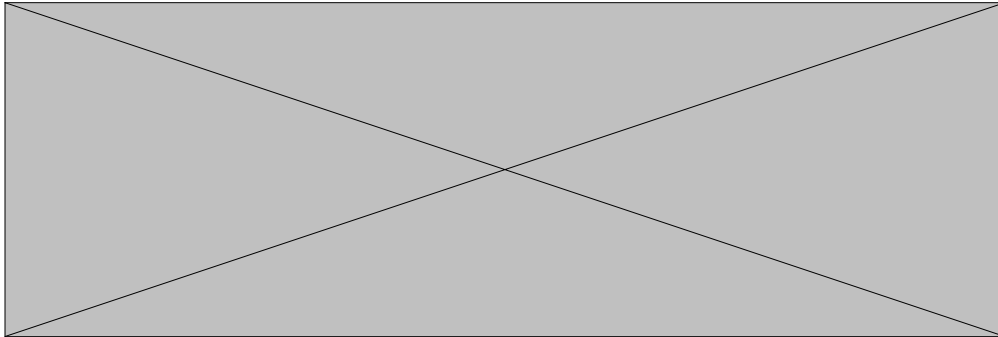
The U.S. Government and Palau signed the agreement in 2010, which proposed continued U.S. financial assistance totaling \$229 million through 2024. At the time, full funding for the pact was not authorized. Beginning with FY 2010, subsequent Interior and discretionary appropriations acts have extended annual economic assistance to Palau of approximately \$13.1 million a year for a total of \$105.2 million in discretionary funds thus far. These funds are provided to assist the Government of Palau in its efforts to advance the well-being of its people and in recognition of the special relationship that exists between the United States and Palau.

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From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-12-14T13:58:52-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Interior Continues Steps Toward Department-Wide Culture Change with Release of Work Environment Survey Results
Received: 2017-12-14T13:59:28-05:00



Date: December 14, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Interior Continues Steps Toward Department-Wide Culture Change with Release of Work Environment Survey Results

First survey of its scope shows 35 Percent of DOI employees harassed, discriminated against

WASHINGTON – Today, the U.S. Department of the Interior released results from a [Work Environment Survey](#) that shows 35 percent of its employees were harassed or discriminated against in the 12 months preceding the anonymous survey. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt, who have been on the forefront of instilling a culture change through swift personnel actions, transparency and a zero-tolerance policy, have issued a call for action plans from all bureau and office heads across the Department.

The Work Environment Survey was sent during the period of January 9 to March 5, 2017 to all DOI personnel employed as of December 10, 2016. CFI Group, a third-party contractor to the Department of the Interior, conducted the survey and developed the report that was released today. The survey results come two months after the National Park Service and Secretary Zinke [announced the NPS-specific results](#) from the same survey.

“From day one, I made it clear that I have zero tolerance for any type of workplace harassment, and I have directed leadership across the entire Department to move rapidly to improve accountability and transparency with regard to this absolutely intolerable behavior,” **said Secretary Zinke**. “All employees have the right to work in a safe and harassment-free environment. I’ve already fired a number of predators who other administrations were too afraid to remove or just turned a blind eye to. Under my leadership we don’t protect predators. When I say ‘zero tolerance’ I mean that these people will be held accountable for their abhorrent actions.”

The survey, which is the first of its scope done across the federal government, was designed to assess workplace conditions that Interior employees experience, including the prevalence and context of all forms of harassment. 28,203 employees responded to the survey, or a 44% response rate. Results showed that 20.5 percent of employees experienced age-related harassment, 16.5 percent experienced harassment because of their gender, 9.3 percent because of their race or ethnicity, and 8 percent experienced sexual harassment. Other forms of harassment that were surveyed were religion (7.1 percent), disability (6.1 percent) and sexual orientation (3.6 percent). 0.74 percent of respondents experienced a sexual assault.

CHANGING THE CULTURE

In a memo sent today to bureau and office heads, Deputy Secretary Bernhardt directed each to develop and submit a formal action plan within 45 days to address their specific survey results. Those plans, which will also be sent to the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget, will include a schedule for accomplishing those actions and a description of how they will assess success.

“Intimidation, harassment, and discrimination are viruses within an operation, and have no place at Interior,” **said Deputy Secretary Bernhardt**. “The previous administration failed to aggressively address these problems and it shows. The culture across the Department will change. It’s up to all levels of management to ensure that our employees have a healthy work environment that empowers them to be productive and effective for the American people. And if managers are the problem, we will deal with of them.”

The Department has revised the performance standards for managers and supervisors to ensure that their future performance ratings will reflect their success or failure in holding employees accountable for harassing conduct. In addition, the new Department harassment policy which is now in draft form will implement a mandatory reporting process for reporting allegations of harassing conduct up the chain of command. This reporting structure will ensure that misconduct is not ignored and that appropriate disciplinary action is taken.

Since the Department received initial survey results, Interior has:

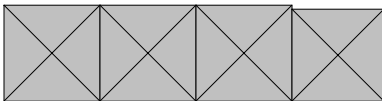
- Issued the National Park Service Anti-Harassment Policy and its accompanying draft Reference Manual in October. NPS has been collecting employee comments on the Reference Manual and will finalize it soon. The new NPS anti-harassment policy has been strengthened by defining more broadly what is prohibited harassing conduct to ensure that employees can be held accountable for harassing conduct even if such behavior may not rise to the level of illegal harassment under EEO laws. This should serve as template for other bureaus and offices
- Drafted a Department-wide harassing conduct policy that is similar to the NPS Anti-Harassment Policy; it defines more broadly prohibited harassing conduct to allow managers to hold employees accountable for conduct that may not rise to the level of illegal harassment. The Policy will have a reporting structure to ensure that management knows when allegations of harassing conduct are raised and that matters are investigated quickly.

- Issued an Investigator Guide to Conducting Administrative Investigations. The guidance sets consistent high standards, ensuring that misconduct investigations, including those dealing with harassing conduct, are conducted in a thorough, impartial and fair manner, and any resulting disciplinary or other actions are defensible.
- Trained close to 100 employee relations and employment law practitioners on conducting administrative investigations into allegations of misconduct.
- Expanded the cadre of ombuds professionals available, with most Bureaus now having a dedicated ombuds resource in place.
- Created/updated dedicated internal and external employee webpages with resources on harassment, discrimination and retaliation.

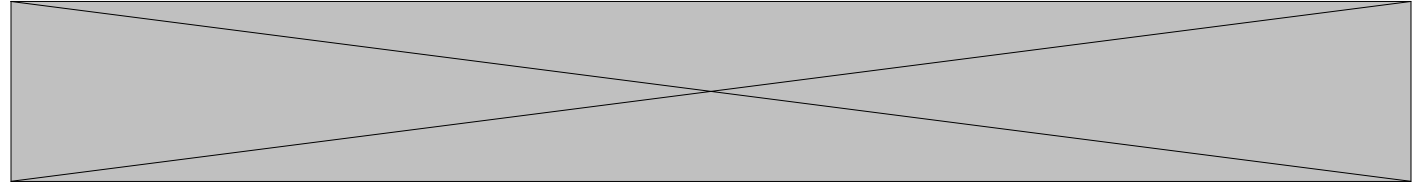
“These survey results don’t illustrate a new problem, but they will help us target where we must dedicate efforts and resources to fix a problem that has festered for years,” **said Secretary Zinke**. “We are now continuing the needed steps in creating plans across all of our bureaus and offices to ensure that every employee feels, not only safe on a daily basis, but also empowered to speak up should they feel harassed or discriminated against.”

Department employees who have experienced harassment or discrimination can find a wide variety of resources at [DOI.gov/employees](https://www.doi.gov/employees).

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From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-12-14T14:13:14-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Reclamation launches prize competition looking to eradicate invasive quagga and zebra mussels
Received: 2017-12-14T14:14:04-05:00



**Commissioner's Office
Washington, DC**

Media Contact: Peter Soeth, psoeth@usbr.gov, 303-445-3615

For Immediate Release: December 14, 2017

Bureau of Reclamation launches prize competition looking to eradicate invasive quagga and zebra mussels

Winners of the prize competition will have an innovative solution for 100-percent eradication and will share a prize purse of \$100,000

WASHINGTON - The Bureau of Reclamation has launched a new prize competition seeking innovative solutions for the 100-percent eradication of invasive quagga and zebra mussels from large reservoirs, lakes and rivers in a cost-effective and environmentally sound manner. Invasive mussel infestations pose significant logistical and economic challenges for local communities, recreationists, and water managers by potentially disrupting water deliveries, increasing facility maintenance cost, and impacting the local ecology.

"Currently, no known broad scale application for open water exists to safely eradicate mussels in an environmentally sound manner," Reclamation's Science Advisor David Raff said.

Solutions may be novel treatments or approaches that build upon existing treatments. They must be specific to invasive mussels without significant harm to non-target organisms such as native mussels or threatened and endangered species. They must already be in compliance with existing federal discharge permits and environmental protection regulations or must be implementable with reasonable modifications to existing regulations. Successful treatments must be cost-effective and scalable to large water bodies.

The challenge will consist of three stages. Stage one is a theoretical challenge. It requires the submission of a white paper that describes novel treatments/methods for open-water mussel eradication. Reclamation is making a total prize purse of \$100,000 available, to be divided among a maximum of five winners. If successful, stage two is planned to provide proof-of-concept in a laboratory-scale demonstration.

Reclamation is collaborating with the U.S. Geological Survey, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Molloy & Associates.

This prize competition is part of a series of initiatives that were developed through a collaboration with western governors and federal, state and Tribal agencies and highlighted by Secretary of the Interior

Ryan Zinke last June. Read the [full list of actions](#).

Learn more by visiting <https://www.usbr.gov/research/challenges/mussels.html>.

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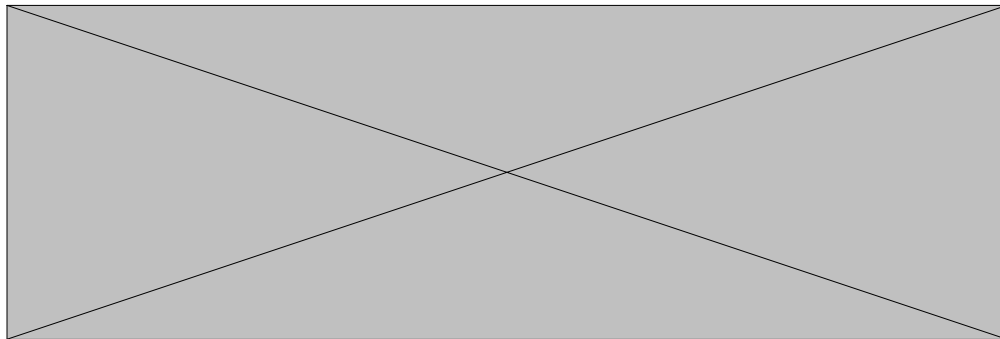
Reclamation is the largest wholesale water supplier in the United States, and the nation's second largest producer of hydroelectric power. Its facilities also provide substantial flood control, recreation, and fish and wildlife benefits. Visit our website at <https://www.usbr.gov/> and follow us on Twitter [@USBR](#).

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-12-19T13:40:32-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: GROUNDBREAKING REPORT: U.S. RELIANT ON CHINA, RUSSIA, OTHER FOREIGN NATIONS FOR MANY CRITICAL MINERALS
Received: 2017-12-19T13:41:13-05:00
[Critical Minerals - Power Point Info.pdf](#)
[Critical Minerals Fact Sheet Q&A.pdf](#)

Esteemed MAGA Colleagues,
Attached you will find a fact sheet/Q&A, a power point highlighting some aspects of this critical minerals report, and the official press release.

More information will be coming regarding this topic yet feel free to reach out to me for more details. Please share any announcements, op-eds, and press releases you or others may generate regarding this announcement in the next few days/weeks.

Merry Christmas to All,
Jason Funes



Date: December 19, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

GROUNDBREAKING REPORT: U.S. RELIANT ON CHINA, RUSSIA, OTHER FOREIGN NATIONS FOR MANY CRITICAL MINERALS

*U.S. 100 percent foreign-reliant on 20 minerals, Rare Earth minerals produced
almost exclusively in China*

WASHINGTON – Today, the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Geological Survey released a report that detailed the extent to which the United States is fully, majorly, or partially dependent upon foreign competitors and even adversaries for our supply of "critical minerals." The report identified 23 of the minerals that are most-needed to sustain our national defense and economy and are used in manufacturing everything from batteries and computer chips to

equipment used by our military. The report shows a troubling trend of foreign dependency.

"I commend the team of scientists at USGS for the extensive work put into the report, but the findings are shocking," **said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke**. "The fact that previous administrations allowed the United States to become reliant on foreign nations, including our competitors and adversaries, for minerals that are so strategically important to our security and economy is deeply troubling. As both a former military commander and geologist, I know the very real national security risk of relying on foreign nations for what the military needs to keep our soldiers and our homeland safe."

The report found the United States is most reliant on China for critical minerals with at least 20 critical minerals being sourced exclusively in China. Russia, South Africa, Brazil and Canada also supply many of our minerals.

The mineral commodities highlighted in this book have been called critical or strategic owing to concerns about risk of supply interruption and the cost of such a disruption. Such critical mineral commodities include rare-earth elements, used in high-end electronics, and platinum-group elements, used in catalytic converters and petroleum refining.

"The best part of this report is that we can provide complete minerals information for the Nation for the first time in generations," **said Klaus Schulz, an editor and author of the volume**. "The USGS combines short- and medium-term data on the current global supply of minerals with research on the long-term potential of these minerals through our mineral-resource assessments. Despite current supply concerns, one thing we shouldn't lose sight of is that we will also need mineral commodities far into the future. We wanted to identify future needs too, so we included information to help plan for the sustainable development of each of these minerals."

This report updates another USGS report from 1973, which was published when many of the commodities that are covered in this new volume were only of minor importance. Today, advanced technologies have increased the demand for and production of mineral commodities for nearly all elements in the periodic table.

For instance, in the 1970s, rare-earth elements had few uses outside of some specialty fields, and were produced mostly in the United States. Today, rare-earth elements are integral to nearly all high-end electronics and are produced almost entirely in China.

According to the recently released USGS Mineral Commodity Summaries 2017, the United States was 100 percent net import reliant on 20 mineral commodities in 2016, including manganese, niobium, tantalum and several of the other mineral commodities covered in the new volume.

This number has risen dramatically over the past 60 years. For example, in 1954 the United States was 100 percent import reliant for the supply of only eight nonfuel mineral commodities and by 1984 for 11 commodities.

Since 1973, there has also been a significant increase in knowledge about geologic and

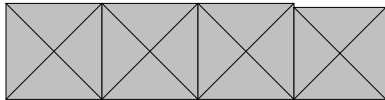
environmental issues related to production and use. This report addresses the sustainable development of each mineral commodity in order that the current needs of the Nation can be met without limiting the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

For each mineral commodity, the authors address how the commodity is used, the location of identified resources and their distribution nationally and globally, the state of current geologic knowledge, potential for finding additional deposits, and geoenvironmental issues that may be related to the production and uses of these mineral commodities.

The volume, USGS Professional Paper 1802, is entitled “Critical Mineral Resources in the United States—Economic and Environmental Geology and Prospects for Future Supply”. The USGS also regularly produces mineral information products, such as the yearly Mineral Commodity Summaries, the Minerals Yearbook, and mineral-resource assessments.

For more information on this book and mineral-resource science, please visit the USGS Mineral Resources Program at <https://minerals.usgs.gov>.

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Mineral Resources Program

USGS Professional Paper 1802 — Critical Mineral Resources of the United States

Lawrence D. Meinert

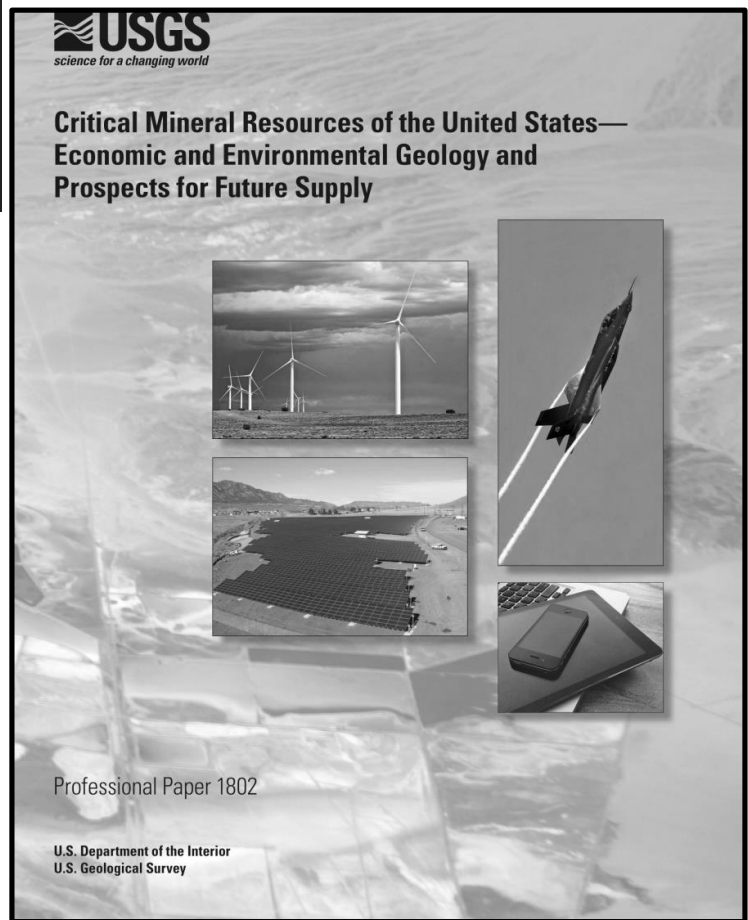
Deputy Associate Director – Energy and Minerals

December 18, 2017

U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey

Critical Mineral Resources of the United States

- This new publication provides factual information on 23 mineral commodities critical to the Nation's economy, security, and everyday life.
- However, which minerals are “critical” changes through time....



Changes in Element Importance through Time

New uses for elements are discovered as technology progresses.

One example: The number of elements used in computer chip technology has changed:

- 12 in the 1980s
- 16 in the 1990s
- Over 60 by the 2000s



The image displays three periodic tables of elements, each representing a different decade and the number of elements used in computer chip technology. The tables are arranged vertically. The top table is for the 1980s, the middle for the 1990s, and the bottom for the 2000s. Each table has a label indicating the number of elements used: "1980s (12 elements)", "1990s (+4 elements)", and "2000s (+45 elements)". The elements are color-coded: blue for the 1980s, green for the 1990s, and red for the 2000s. The tables show the progression of elements used in computer chip technology over time, with the 2000s table showing a significant increase in the number of elements used compared to the 1980s and 1990s.

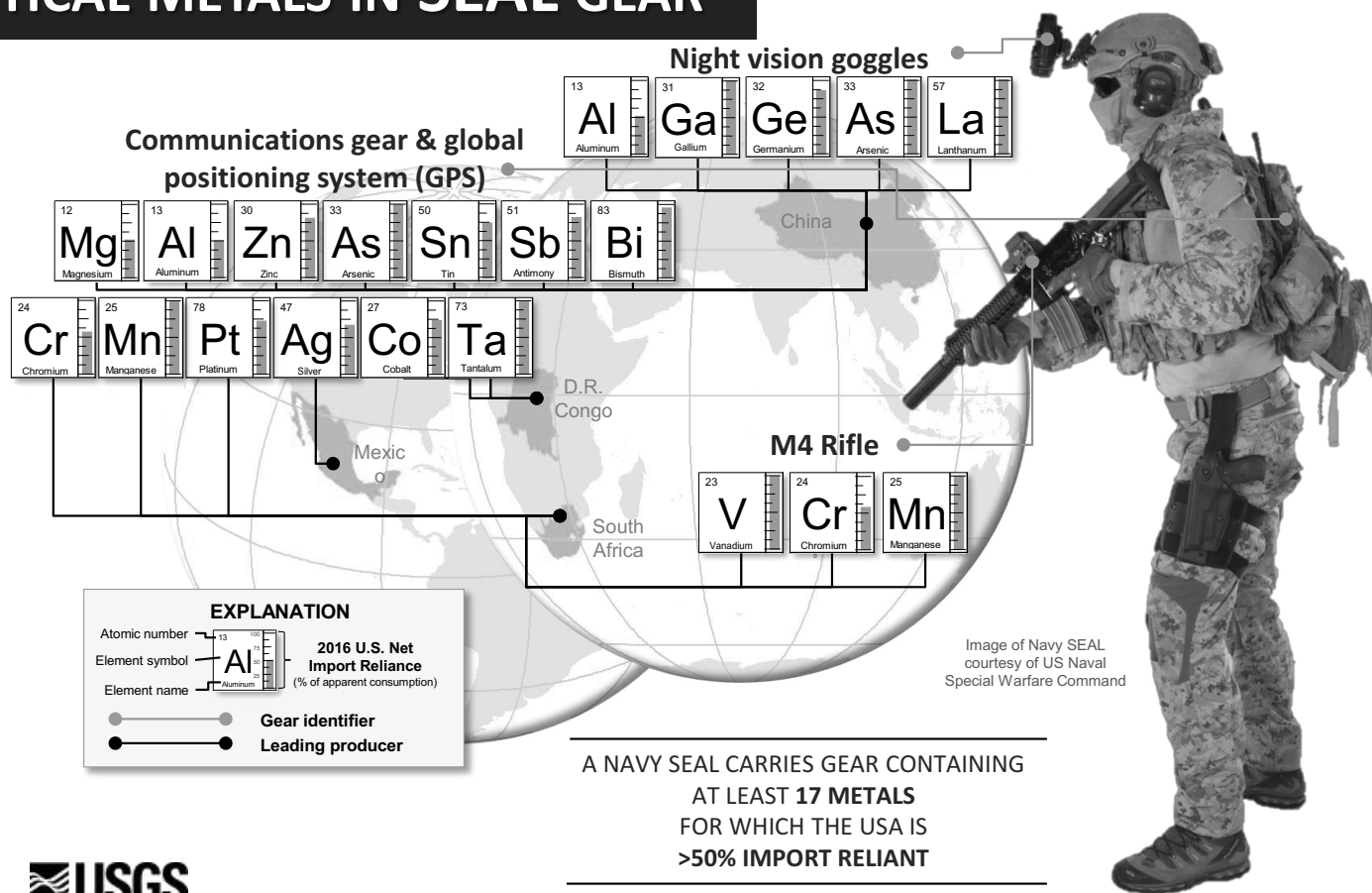
What is a Critical Mineral? — Definition in USGS Prof. Paper 1802

- Mineral commodities that have important uses and no viable substitutes, yet face potential disruption in supply, are defined as **critical** to the Nation's economic and national security.
- A mineral commodity's importance and the nature of its supply chain can change with time, such that a mineral commodity that may have been considered critical 25 years ago may not be critical now, and one considered critical now may not be so in the future.

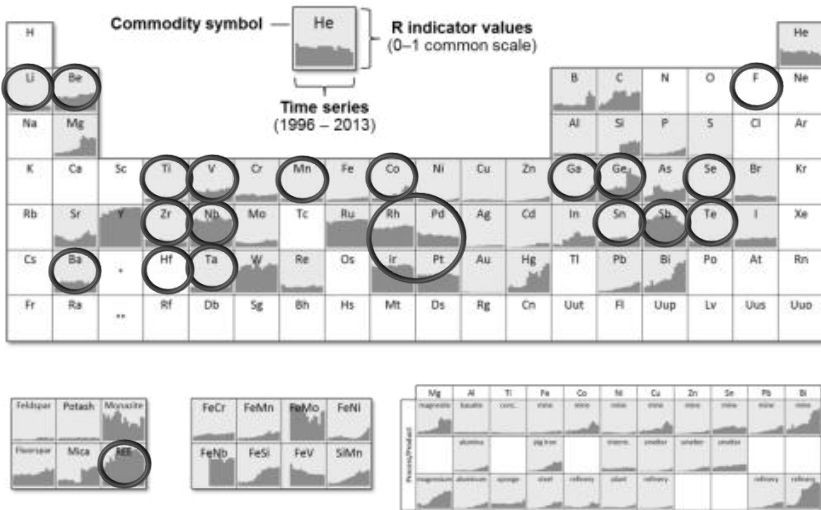
Critical means you need it, strategic means you don't have it.



CRITICAL METALS IN SEAL GEAR



Critical Mineral Resources of the United States



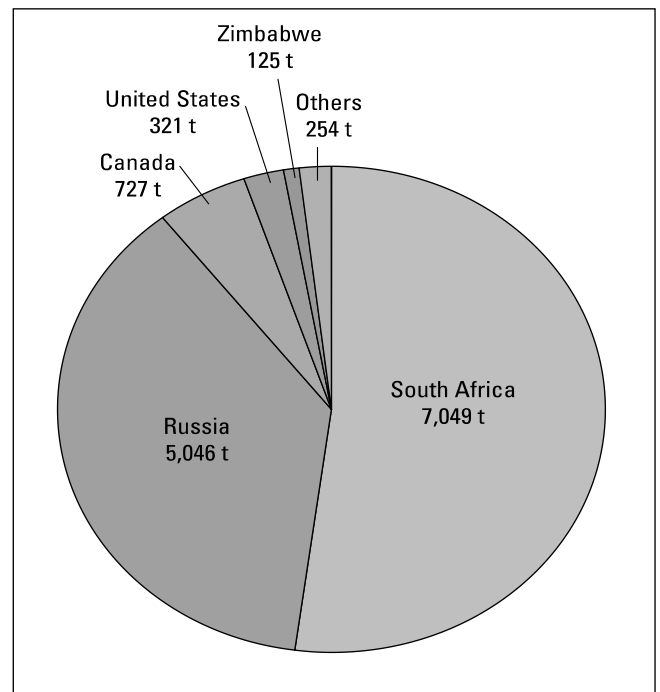
○ Mineral commodity in Prof. Paper 1802.

Prof. Paper 1802 covers 23 mineral commodities.

- For all but two commodities in the publication (beryllium and titanium), the US is over 50% reliant on foreign sources.
- Eight of the commodities are on the USGS's current list of "critical" minerals.

Platinum Group Elements (PGEs) — An Example of Critical Mineral Resources

- Although PGEs are produced in the U.S. (Stillwater mine, Montana), the vast majority of PGEs come from only two countries – South Africa and Russia.
- Because of their economic importance, increasing usage worldwide, and potential supply risks, PGEs are currently considered “critical” minerals.



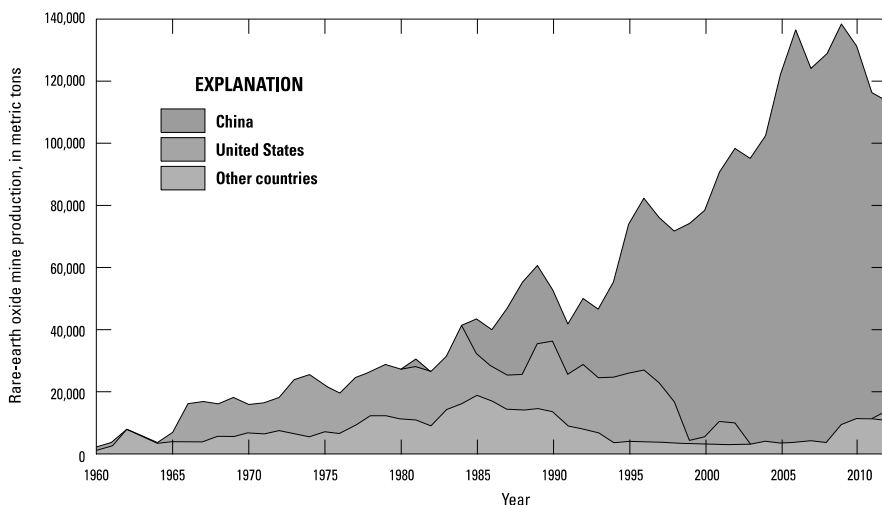
Pie chart of world PGE production 1960-2011

Rare Earth Elements (REEs)— Another example of Critical Mineral Resources

- **Light REEs (LREE)**
 - Lanthanum
 - Cerium
 - Praseodymium
 - Neodymium
 - Samarium
 - Europium
 - Gadolinium
- **Heavy REEs (HREE)**
 - Yttrium
 - Terbium
 - Dysprosium
 - Holmium
 - Erbium
 - Ytterbium
 - Lutetium
- **Key properties:**
 - Unique magnetic and optical properties
- **Uses:**
 - Permanent magnets – hard drives, cell phones, electric motors, actuators in aircraft
 - Battery alloys
 - Lasers, microwave equipment, superconductors, nuclear control rods
 - Steelmaking
 - Petroleum refining catalysts
 - Phosphors for cathode ray tubes, flat panel displays, LEDs, MRI
 - Pigments for ceramics and glass



REEs – Strategic and Critical Resource Issues



World REE production 1960-2011



- China has been the leading producer of both REEs for decades and since the 1990's has accounted for over 90% of global production.
- China has in the past restricted supplies of REEs through imposition of quotas, licenses, and taxes.

Critical Mineral Resources of the United States

- Professional Paper 1802 represents a significant improvement of available data on the Nation's critical mineral resources.
- However, the publication (begun in 2013) does not include several mineral commodities that are now recognized as “critical” by the USGS:
 - Bismuth
 - Ferromolybdenum
 - Mercury
 - Nickel
 - Phosphate
 - Strontium
 - Tungsten

The USGS will continue to update existing data on mineral resources and add new data on mineral resources deemed critical.



Critical Minerals of the United States

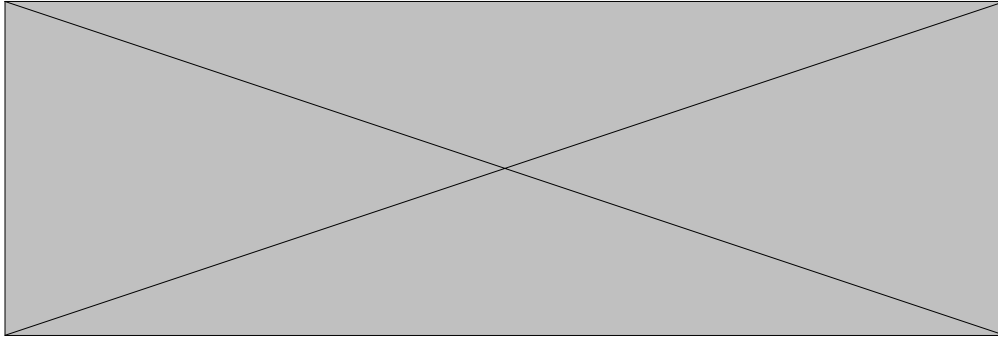
Q&As for USGS Professional Paper 1802

1. Who will use this report?
 - a. We hope this report will be used by national security experts, economists, and resource managers with an interest in the minerals that are critical to the economy and security of the United States, as well as geoscientists. Our previous version of this report, published in the 1970s, has been one of the most-used and most-cited reports in our agency's history.
2. Why these minerals?
 - a. These minerals were chosen because of their importance to the economy or security of the United States. Twenty of them were included in the previous report, issued in the 1970s, but required updated chapters either because we use them differently or the supply changed significantly. Three of the mineral reports are new and reflect the ongoing evolution of our electronics.
3. Are these all the minerals that are critical today?
 - a. No. The minerals in this volume were chosen in 2013 when work started on this publication. Since that time the USGS has developed a quantitative method to determine what minerals are critical. The current list of critical mineral commodities includes others that are not described in the volume. The USGS will undertake new work to describe these mineral commodities.
4. What has changed the most since the 1970s?
 - a. Our electronics, primarily. Today, advanced technologies have increased the demand for and production of mineral commodities for nearly all elements in the periodic table. For instance, in the 1970s, rare-earth elements had few uses outside of some specialty fields, and were produced mostly in the United States. Today, rare-earth elements are integral to nearly all high-end electronics and are produced almost entirely in China.
5. Which are the most important minerals in this report?
 - a. Each of these minerals is vital to an industry, and all of them are important to our economy and security. Using our critical mineral forecasting tool, though, we can say that eight of the minerals can be considered critical.
6. What are critical and strategic minerals? What's the difference?
 - a. They are those that are vital for the Nation's economic and national security; that have important uses; and that have no viable substitutes or could face potential disruptions in supply. Critical means you need it, strategic means you don't have it.
7. What are some examples of critical minerals?
 - a. Rare Earth Elements: Used in electronics such as smartphones, wind turbines, and defense computing.
 - b. Platinum Group Metals: The largest user of the platinum group metals is the automotive industry, but they're also used in petroleum refining and jewelry

- c. Manganese: Used in speciality steels and in some batteries.
 - d. Gallium: Used in semiconductor production, light-emitting diodes, and solar panels.
 - e. Germanium: Used in specialty alloys and as a phosphor.
 - f. Niobium: Used in superalloys for jet engines and fire-resistant equipment.
 - g. Tantalum: Alloys that increase strength, durability, and corrosion resistance as well as in capacitors and resistors.
 - h. Antimony: Used in batteries and infrared detectors.
8. Does the United States have enough minerals?
 - a. The United States is richly endowed with mineral resources throughout the country. In 2016, the United States mined \$74.6 billion worth of minerals, with crushed stone, cement, sand & gravel, gold, and copper accounting for 68.5% of that value. Nevada, Arizona, California, Texas, and Minnesota led the United States in mineral production value in 2016, accounting for about one third of the total value.
 9. Why don't we mine more in the United States?
 - a. The commonly long lead time in establishing permits and the lack of geological and geophysical data similar to other countries with significant mining such as Australia and Canada.
 10. Why are we so dependent on foreign sources for our minerals?
 - a. The case is different for each mineral commodity. In the case of rare earths, the United States has numerous deposits but has been undercut in production costs by China. For the platinum group elements there are very few major deposits in the world. Those known include a deposit in Russia and a number of deposits in South Africa. While we have one significant deposit in Montana it is not large enough to supply the Nation's demand. Several of the metals, including gallium and germanium, are produced as a by-product of other metal production — aluminum in the case of gallium and zinc in the case of germanium. Thus, the amounts of these metals, often produced outside the United States, determine what is available in the market.
 11. Where are the minerals in the United States?
 - a. Studying the occurrence and formation of mineral resources throughout the United States is a priority for the USGS. Mineral production occurs in all 50 states, primarily crushed stone, cement, and sand & gravel operations. Other mineral resources, like iron, copper, gold, and zinc, are more concentrated.
 - b. For instance, in 2016, eleven states individually produced more than \$2 billion worth of nonfuel mineral commodities in 2016. These states were (in descending order of value): Nevada, Arizona, Texas, California, Minnesota, Florida, Alaska, Michigan, Wyoming, Missouri and Utah.
 - c. Arizona led the Nation in copper production in 2016, while Nevada led the Nation in gold production, Minnesota produced the most iron ore, and Alaska produced the most zinc.

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-12-19T14:34:56-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: GROUNDBREAKING REPORT: U.S. RELIANT ON CHINA, RUSSIA, OTHER FOREIGN NATIONS FOR MANY CRITICAL MINERALS
Received: 2017-12-19T14:35:38-05:00

One step closer to making Tax Reform Great Again,



Date: December 19, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

GROUNDBREAKING REPORT: U.S. RELIANT ON CHINA, RUSSIA, OTHER FOREIGN NATIONS FOR MANY CRITICAL MINERALS

U.S. 100 percent foreign-reliant on 20 minerals, Rare Earth minerals produced almost exclusively in China

WASHINGTON – Today, the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Geological Survey released a report that detailed the extent to which the United States is fully, majorly, or partially dependent upon foreign competitors and even adversaries for our supply of "critical minerals." The report identified 23 of the minerals that are most-needed to sustain our national defense and economy and are used in manufacturing everything from batteries and computer chips to equipment used by our military. The report shows a troubling trend of foreign dependency.

"I commend the team of scientists at USGS for the extensive work put into the report, but the findings are shocking," said **U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke**. "The fact that previous administrations allowed the United States to become reliant on foreign nations, including our competitors and adversaries, for minerals that are so strategically important to our security and economy is deeply troubling. As both a former military commander and geologist, I know the very real national security risk of relying on foreign nations for what the military needs to keep our soldiers and our homeland safe."

The report found the United States is most reliant on China for critical minerals with at least 20 critical minerals being sourced exclusively in China. Russia, South Africa, Brazil and Canada also supply many of our minerals.

The mineral commodities highlighted in this book have been called critical or strategic owing to concerns about risk of supply interruption and the cost of such a disruption. Such critical mineral commodities include rare-earth elements, used in high-end electronics, and platinum-group elements, used in catalytic converters and petroleum refining.

“The best part of this report is that we can provide complete minerals information for the Nation for the first time in generations,” **said Klaus Schulz, an editor and author of the volume.** “The USGS combines short- and medium-term data on the current global supply of minerals with research on the long-term potential of these minerals through our mineral-resource assessments. Despite current supply concerns, one thing we shouldn’t lose sight of is that we will also need mineral commodities far into the future. We wanted to identify future needs too, so we included information to help plan for the sustainable development of each of these minerals.”

This report updates another USGS report from 1973, which was published when many of the commodities that are covered in this new volume were only of minor importance. Today, advanced technologies have increased the demand for and production of mineral commodities for nearly all elements in the periodic table.

For instance, in the 1970s, rare-earth elements had few uses outside of some specialty fields, and were produced mostly in the United States. Today, rare-earth elements are integral to nearly all high-end electronics and are produced almost entirely in China.

According to the recently released USGS Mineral Commodity Summaries 2017, the United States was 100 percent net import reliant on 20 mineral commodities in 2016, including manganese, niobium, tantalum and several of the other mineral commodities covered in the new volume.

This number has risen dramatically over the past 60 years. For example, in 1954 the United States was 100 percent import reliant for the supply of only eight nonfuel mineral commodities and by 1984 for 11 commodities.

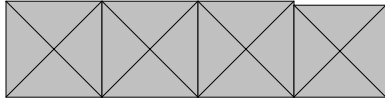
Since 1973, there has also been a significant increase in knowledge about geologic and environmental issues related to production and use. This report addresses the sustainable development of each mineral commodity in order that the current needs of the Nation can be met without limiting the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

For each mineral commodity, the authors address how the commodity is used, the location of identified resources and their distribution nationally and globally, the state of current geologic knowledge, potential for finding additional deposits, and geoenvironmental issues that may be related to the production and uses of these mineral commodities.

The volume, USGS Professional Paper 1802, is entitled “Critical Mineral Resources in the United States—Economic and Environmental Geology and Prospects for Future Supply”. The USGS also regularly produces mineral information products, such as the yearly Mineral Commodity Summaries, the Minerals Yearbook, and mineral-resource assessments.

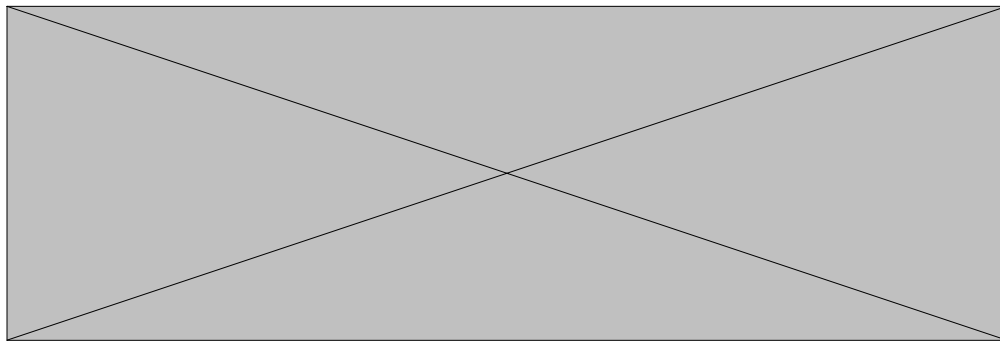
For more information on this book and mineral-resource science, please visit the USGS Mineral Resources Program at <https://minerals.usgs.gov>.

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-12-21T07:59:59-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP SIGNS EXECUTIVE ORDER TO BREAK NATION'S DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN MINERALS AND STRENGTHEN OUR NATIONAL SECURITY
Received: 2017-12-21T08:00:52-05:00
[2017 EO - Federal Strategy to Ensure Secure and Reliable Supplies of Critical Minerals.pdf](#)

After a historic Tax Reform, let's continue making America independent from foreign dependencies... America First!



Date: December 20, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP SIGNS EXECUTIVE ORDER TO BREAK NATION'S DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN MINERALS AND STRENGTHEN OUR NATIONAL SECURITY

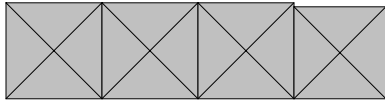
WASHINGTON – Today, President Donald J. Trump signed an [Executive Order](#) to reverse the decades-long trend of increasing dependence on foreign imports of critical minerals that are essential to American prosperity and national security. Earlier this week, the Department of the Interior, led by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), [released a report](#) that examined 23 minerals that are needed for manufacturing everything from batteries and computer chips to equipment used by our military.

“This executive order will prioritize reducing the Nation’s vulnerability to disruptions in our supply of critical minerals safely and responsibly for the benefit of the American people,” **said President Trump**. “The United States must not remain reliant on foreign competitors like Russia and China for the critical minerals needed to keep our economy strong and our country safe.”

“As both a former military commander and geologist, I know the very real national security risk of relying on foreign nations for the military’s needs to keep our soldiers and our homeland safe,” **said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke**. “I applaud President Trump's action to fix this problem at all points in the supply chain.”

The comprehensive order aims to identify new sources of critical minerals, ensure miners and producers have access to the best data, and streamline the leasing and permitting process to expedite production, reprocessing and recycling of minerals at all levels of the supply chain.

###



EXECUTIVE ORDER

- - - - -

A FEDERAL STRATEGY TO ENSURE SECURE AND
RELIABLE SUPPLIES OF CRITICAL MINERALS

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Findings. The United States is heavily reliant on imports of certain mineral commodities that are vital to the Nation's security and economic prosperity. This dependency of the United States on foreign sources creates a strategic vulnerability for both its economy and military to adverse foreign government action, natural disaster, and other events that can disrupt supply of these key minerals. Despite the presence of significant deposits of some of these minerals across the United States, our miners and producers are currently limited by a lack of comprehensive, machine-readable data concerning topographical, geological, and geophysical surveys; permitting delays; and the potential for protracted litigation regarding permits that are issued. An increase in private-sector domestic exploration, production, recycling, and reprocessing of critical minerals, and support for efforts to identify more commonly available technological alternatives to these minerals, will reduce our dependence on imports, preserve our leadership in technological innovation, support job creation, improve our national security and balance of trade, and enhance the technological superiority and readiness of our Armed Forces, which are among the Nation's most significant consumers of critical minerals.

Sec. 2. Definition. (a) A "critical mineral" is a mineral identified by the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to subsection (b) of this section to be (i) a non-fuel mineral or

mineral material essential to the economic and national security of the United States, (ii) the supply chain of which is vulnerable to disruption, and (iii) that serves an essential function in the manufacturing of a product, the absence of which would have significant consequences for our economy or our national security.

(b) The Secretary of the Interior, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense and in consultation with the heads of other relevant executive departments and agencies (agencies), shall publish a list of critical minerals in the *Federal Register* not later than 60 days after the date of this order, and disseminate such list to the appropriate agencies.

Sec. 3. Policy. It shall be the policy of the Federal Government to reduce the Nation's vulnerability to disruptions in the supply of critical minerals, which constitutes a strategic vulnerability for the security and prosperity of the United States. The United States will further this policy for the benefit of the American people and in a safe and environmentally responsible manner, by:

- (a) identifying new sources of critical minerals;
- (b) increasing activity at all levels of the supply chain, including exploration, mining, concentration, separation, alloying, recycling, and reprocessing critical minerals;
- (c) ensuring that our miners and producers have electronic access to the most advanced topographic, geologic, and geophysical data within U.S. territory to the extent permitted by law and subject to appropriate limitations for purposes of privacy and security, including appropriate limitations to protect critical infrastructure data such as those related to national security areas; and

(d) streamlining leasing and permitting processes to expedite exploration, production, processing, reprocessing, recycling, and domestic refining of critical minerals.

Sec. 4. Implementation. (a) Within 180 days of the date that the Secretary of the Interior publishes a list of critical minerals under section 2 of this order, the Secretary of Commerce, in coordination with the Secretaries of Defense, the Interior, Agriculture, and Energy, and the United States Trade Representative, shall submit a report to the President through the Assistant to the President for Economic Policy, the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, and the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy. The report shall include:

- (i) a strategy to reduce the Nation's reliance on critical minerals;
- (ii) an assessment of progress toward developing critical minerals recycling and reprocessing technologies, and technological alternatives to critical minerals;
- (iii) options for accessing and developing critical minerals through investment and trade with our allies and partners;
- (iv) a plan to improve the topographic, geologic, and geophysical mapping of the United States and make the resulting data and metadata electronically accessible, to the extent permitted by law and subject to appropriate limitations for purposes of privacy and security, to support private sector mineral exploration of critical minerals; and

(v) recommendations to streamline permitting and review processes related to developing leases; enhancing access to critical mineral resources; and increasing discovery, production, and domestic refining of critical minerals.

(b) Agencies shall implement subsection (a) of this section in a manner consistent with, and when possible complementary to, implementation of Executive Order 13771 of January 30, 2017 (Reducing Regulation and Controlling Regulatory Costs), Executive Order 13783 of March 28, 2017 (Promoting Energy Independence and Economic Growth), Executive Order 13807 of August 15, 2017 (Establishing Discipline and Accountability in the Environmental Review and Permitting Process for Infrastructure Projects), and Executive Order 12866 of September 30, 1993 (Regulatory Planning and Review).

Sec. 5. General Provisions. (a) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

- (i) the authority granted by law to an executive department or agency, or the head thereof;
- (ii) the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals; or
- (iii) existing treaties or international agreements relating to mineral production, imports, or exports.

(b) This order shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

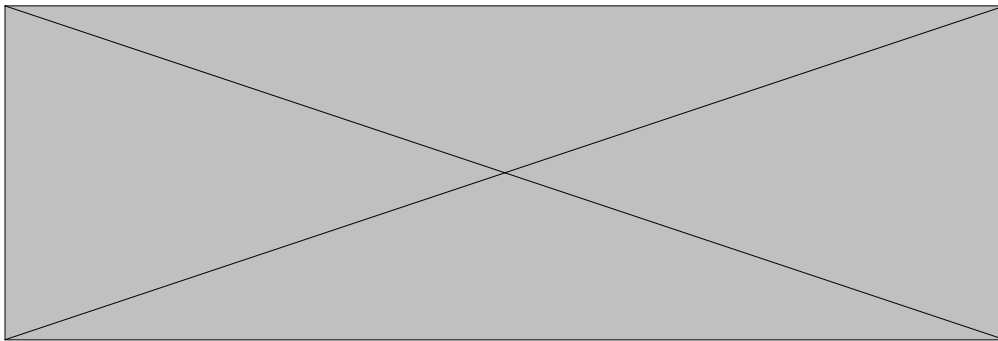
(c) This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its

departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

THE WHITE HOUSE,

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-12-22T14:19:48-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Signs Order to Begin Process of Creating First Ever National Survey of Critical Minerals
Received: 2017-12-22T14:20:23-05:00

This is a follow up to the Critical Minerals Report released this week, the subsequent Executive Order, and the Secretary's actions from the report...



Date: December 21, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Signs Order to Begin Process of Creating First Ever National Survey of Critical Minerals

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, following President Donald J. Trump's executive order to break America's dependence on foreign minerals, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke signed a secretarial order directing the initial steps to producing the first nationwide geological and topographical survey of the United States in modern history. The order also directs Interior bureaus to begin work on identifying immediate domestic sources for critical minerals.

"Right now the United States is almost completely reliant on foreign adversaries and competitors for many of the minerals that are deemed critical for our national and economic security. As both a former military commander and geologist, I know the risk this presents to our nation," **said Secretary Ryan Zinke**. "The problem is we can't fix the problem if we don't know where the minerals are within our own borders. Other nations are far ahead of us with mapping of their mineral resources, leading to private sector investment overseas rather than right here at home. Drafting a complete topographical and geographic survey of the United States is exactly the kind of task the USGS was created to do."

"Our nation's growing dependence on foreign minerals is a distinct threat to our

economy, our national defense, and our international competitiveness," **Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairman Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)** said. "We need to improve all aspects of the supply chain – from geologic surveying to permitting reform – so that our nation produces more of the minerals that are fundamental to energy, health care, manufacturing, and other technologies. I welcome Secretary Zinke's determination to strengthen our nation's mineral security, and will continue to work with my colleagues in Congress to ensure we complement these efforts with legislative action."

"A country blessed with abundant mineral resources shouldn't be mineral-dependent and vulnerable," **said House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop (R-UT)**. "This is an economic and security threat that's festered across administrations for too long. I look forward to continuing our work with the Trump administration to unlock our domestic mineral potential and reverse this disturbing trend."

The United States is heavily reliant on imports of certain mineral commodities that are vital to our national security and economic prosperity. This dependency on foreign sources creates a strategic vulnerability to U.S. industry and the military if supplies of these key minerals were disrupted by foreign government action, natural disasters, or other events.

Despite the presence of significant mineral deposits of some of these materials across the United States, our miners and producers are currently limited by a lack of comprehensive, machine-readable data concerning topographical, geological, and geophysical surveys; permitting delays; and the potential for extended litigation when permits are issued.

Western Caucus and House Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Minerals Chairman Paul Gosar said, "Our reliance on foreign nations of questionable stability and demonstrated hostile intentions towards the United States for critical minerals constitutes a serious national security problem. This situation has come about even though the United States could readily procure the vast majority of the 23 minerals identified in the USGS Report domestically and sustainably, were we only to choose to greenlight development of our bounty of mineral resources. At a recent hearing of the Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee which I chair, I emphasized the extent to which arbitrary mineral withdrawals and a federal bureaucracy loathe to authorize mineral projects have brought us to this precarious juncture. But there is a way forward. I applaud President Trump and Secretary Zinke for taking action to advance American energy dominance and strengthen our national security."

The Secretarial Order directs the following action:

1. Direct the United States Geological Survey to:
 - Identify new sources of critical minerals;
 - Ensure that our miners and producers have electronic access to the most advanced topographic, geologic, and geophysical data, with appropriate limitations to protect critical infrastructure data such as those related to

national security areas

2. Direct the Bureau of Land Management and USGS to within 30 days provide a list of minerals defined as "critical minerals" to the Secretary of the Interior. Within 30 days after receiving the list of critical minerals from the BLM and USGS, the Secretary will coordinate with the Department of Defense and consult with the heads of other relevant agencies and departments to establish the final list.
3. Within 60 days of the completion of the critical minerals list, provide a plan to the Secretary to improve the topographic, geological, and geophysical mapping of the United States, and make the resulting data and metadata electronically accessible to support private sector mineral exploration of critical minerals.
4. Within 60 days of the signing of the Executive Order, each bureau head with land management responsibilities shall submit to the Secretary a list of recommendations to streamline permitting and review processes related to developing leases, accessing critical mineral resources, and increasing critical mineral discovery, production, and domestic refining.
5. Within 60 days of the signing of the Executive Order, each bureau head with land management responsibilities shall submit to the Secretary a list of recommended options for improving access and developing critical minerals.

"I applaud Secretary Zinke for initiating a review of the outdated, job-crushing policies that inhibit our ability to utilize our own mineral resources," **said Senator Dean Heller (R-NV)**. "Nevada is one of the most mineral rich locations on earth, and hard rock mining contributes to thousands of jobs in our state. In order to harness our nation's true mineral potential and end our reliance on foreign production, we need to streamline and update these policies, and that's why I authored legislation that would do just that. I thank Secretary Zinke for his leadership on this issue and his work to help allow Nevada and this country to enact a strategy to fully maximize our nation's mineral potential."

"I commend Secretary Zinke for his work to support our miners, streamline the permitting and review process, and enhance our national defense with this important order today," **said Congressman Tom Emmer (R-MN)**. "Minnesota, like so many states across this great nation, is fully prepared to step up and help unleash America's full mining potential which will improve national security, add jobs, bring economic prosperity and enhance the lives of every American. Additionally, our current environmental regulations ensure that we can secure critical minerals like copper and aluminum, while protecting our nation's vast, beautiful landscape. I am glad that this administration agrees sound economic, environmental, and security policy can and should coexist."

"I applaud Secretary Zinke's efforts to end our reliance on foreign countries for minerals that are critically important to our economy and national defense. American companies need access to these minerals to remain competitive globally and the Department of Defense needs access to these minerals to defend our country," **said Senator James E. Risch (R-ID)**.

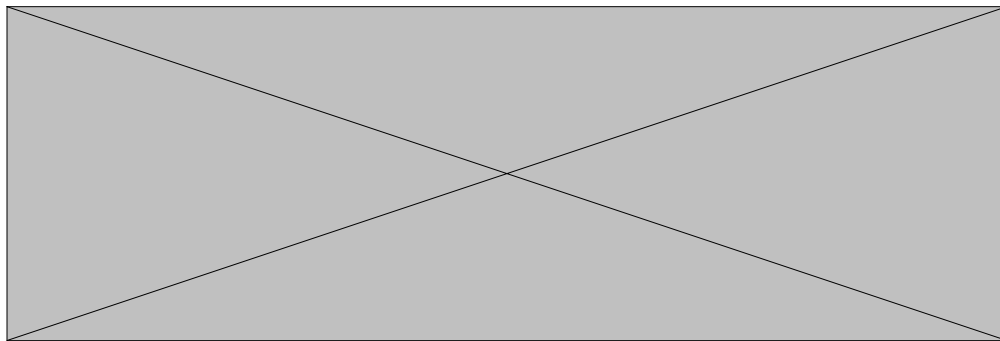
"This report highlights a critical problem that has gotten far less attention than it deserves," **said Senator Orrin G. Hatch (R-UT), Chairman of the Senate Republican High-Tech Task Force.** "Many of our most important—and common—electronic devices require rare-earth metals such as yttrium, lanthanum, and gadolinium to function properly. Television sets, computer processors, and iPhones all incorporate these scarce elements, and the fact that the United States relies so heavily on other countries for so many of them makes our supply chain exceedingly vulnerable. We need a concerted effort here at home to boost recycling and, as appropriate, production of rare-earth minerals so that we have better control over crucial components of our supply chain."

"Secretary Zinke has taken a critical step by highlighting how our national security is tied to our need to develop rare earth resources. This is an important issue, and one our office has been leading on in Congress. West Virginia University has been leading in this effort by conducting research on recovering rare earth elements from coal mine drainage," **said Congressman David B. McKinley (R-WV).** "As they continue to refine this process, it has the potential to have a significant impact on West Virginia's economy, and help reduce environmental impacts. I applaud Secretary Zinke's leadership and look forward to working with him on this issue."

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-12-22T14:25:03-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: New Interior Department Survey Shows HUGE Increase in Recoverable Energy Resources in Federal, State and Native Lands and Waters in Alaska
Received: 2017-12-22T14:25:44-05:00

The Department of the Interior Energy is making American energy great again!

Merry Christmas everyone!!



Date: December 22, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

New Interior Department Survey Shows HUGE Increase in Recoverable Energy Resources in Federal, State and Native Lands and Waters in Alaska

17.6 Billion Barrels of Oil, 50 Trillion Cubic Feet of Gas

Secretary Zinke praises scientists at BOEM and USGS who partnered to produce the updated survey of the Western Beaufort Sea Planning Area and NPR-A

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke released an [updated resource assessment](#) for the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A), the Western Beaufort Sea, adjacent State and Native lands, and State waters, which estimates the mean undiscovered, technically recoverable resources both on and offshore to include 17.6 billion barrels of oil and more than 50 trillion cubic feet of gas.

"Earlier this year I visited the North Slope to talk with Alaska Natives and elected officials about what responsible energy development means for the communities and the state. The response

was overwhelmingly positive and the message was clear: the path to American Energy Dominance starts in Alaska," **said Secretary Zinke**. "Today's updated assessment is a big step toward that goal. Thanks to the incredible work of scientists at the USGS and BOEM, we know what's available and what our potential is. That's important because with the scientific knowledge, industry partners are more willing to explore the area. New discoveries have changed our geologic knowledge of the area - and these assessments show that the North Slope will remain an important energy hub for decades to come in order to meet the energy needs of our nation."

The assessment was conducted by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), which are all bureaus under the management of the Department. USGS led onshore efforts, and BOEM led offshore efforts with data contributed by BLM. Additional information was provided by state and industry partners.

Onshore, USGS estimates a mean of 8.7 billion barrels of oil and 25 trillion cubic feet of gas. This is a significant increase from the 2010 resource assessment, which estimated a mean of 1.5 billion barrels of oil.

Offshore, BOEM's revised estimates of mean undiscovered technically recoverable resources in the Beaufort Sea Outer Continental Shelf Planning Area are 8.9 billion barrels of oil and 27.7 trillion cubic feet of gas. BOEM's updated assessment resulted in a net increase of nearly 700 million barrels of oil equivalent over BOEM's 2016 Beaufort Sea Planning Area assessment.

"I am always mindful of the need to protect the environment and our subsistence way of life and I appreciate the Department of Interior's commitment to responsible development. This resource assessment tells us something our North Slope Inupiat people already know--Alaska has incredible potential," **said Alaska Native officials North Slope Borough Mayor and whaling captain, Harry K. Brower Jr.** "The Borough and the majority of our residents have long supported the careful and responsible development of oil and gas resources within our region that protects the balance between economic development and our subsistence way of life."

"Just as we have always known, this assessment shows that the NPR-A has significant potential and will remain a big part of our energy future," **Chairman Lisa Murkowski said**. "I thank Secretary Zinke for traveling to this area with me earlier this year, for directing USGS to update its resource assessment, and for working with Alaskans on a better plan for responsible development."

"The good news for Alaska and America's energy dominance continues," **said Senator Dan Sullivan**. "Alaska's vast resources offer a superior opportunity for us to provide jobs, energy, and security to our nation and our allies. This updated assessment by the USGS and BOEM shows that the resources are there and the time is now to invest in our vast Arctic energy potential."

"I am pleased with the Secretary's announcement," **said Alaska Congressman Don Young**. "I have consistently fought to defend and grow both the Alaskan and American economy. Finding more recoverable oil in the NPR-A will be a benefit to everyone in our nation. I stand with the

majority of Alaskans in asking Secretary Zinke and the President to continue efforts to expand our energy independence through exploration and responsible development of the NPR-A and Coastal Plain."

"A frontier to many, Alaska's North Slope is our home; it is rich with potential," **said Richard Glenn, ASRC Executive Vice President of Lands and Natural Resources.** "Any good land use and resource exploration decisions require the best available subsurface data and interpretation. I commend our colleagues on the USGS team for taking up this effort." ASRC is an Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) regional corporation. ASRC owns more than five million acres of lands on the North Slope. Shareholder owners of ASRC are the predominant majority of the residents of the eight villages of the North Slope.

"BOEM is pleased to participate in this partnership with USGS to use shared science and new technology to produce these increased estimates of oil and gas potential in northern Alaska," **said Walter Cruickshank, acting director of BOEM.**

"This assessment is a testament to the expertise of our geologists and energy resource scientists," **said Bill Werkheiser, acting director of the USGS.** "These results also show the value of our partnerships, particularly with our sister agencies, the State of Alaska, and industry."

The USGS, BLM and BOEM conducted these assessments in compliance with Secretarial Order 3352 and as part of a program directed at estimating the undiscovered, technically recoverable oil and gas resources of priority petroleum basins in the United States. The next USGS assessments to be announced in Alaska are of the Alaska 1002 Area and the area west of the NPR-A.

This assessment is for undiscovered, technically recoverable oil and gas resources. Undiscovered resources are those that are estimated to exist based on geologic knowledge and theory, while technically recoverable resources are those that can be produced using currently available technology and industry practices.

The estimated undiscovered oil resources are significantly higher than previous estimates, mainly because two geologic formations in the NPR-A host recent oil discoveries that are larger than anticipated. The current USGS estimate is more than six times the previous USGS assessments of the Central North Slope (2005) and NPR-A (2010).

Moreover, the USGS assessment team made use of three-dimensional seismic reflection data in northeastern NPR-A and adjacent State lands and waters, provided by partners like the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, to estimate the number and size of seismic amplitude anomalies, which are considered viable proxies for undrilled prospects.

To find out more about USGS energy assessments and other energy research, please visit the [USGS Energy Resources Program website](#), sign up for our Newsletter, and follow us on [Twitter](#).

More information about BOEM resource evaluation on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) is available on the [BOEM website](#).

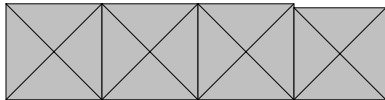
Industry Background

Industry discoveries announced during 2015–2017 indicate that the potential for larger oil accumulations in both formations is greater than previously thought. The Pikka and Horseshoe oil discoveries near the Colville River delta just outside NPR-A were announced in 2015 and 2017. Industry announcements suggest that the two discoveries 21 miles apart likely are in the same oil pool, which may hold more than 1 billion barrels of recoverable oil.

Industry announced the discovery of the Willow oil pool in the Nanushuk Formation in NPR-A in 2017 with estimated resources of more than 300 million barrels of oil. Multiple wells have been announced to be drilled during the 2017-2018 winter drilling season at both Pikka-Horseshoe and Willow to further delineate these discoveries.

Industry announced an oil discovery in the deeper Torok Formation at Smith Bay, less than one mile offshore from NPR-A, in 2016 to hold more than 1 billion barrels of oil. Another oil discovery in the Torok Formation was announced in 2015 at the Cassin prospect in NPR-A, not far from the Willow discovery. No plans for drilling have yet been announced at either Smith Bay or Cassin.

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From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-12-28T17:58:35-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Promises Made, Promises Kept: Interior Releases Comprehensive List of Accomplishments under President Trump & Secretary Zinke
Received: 2017-12-28T17:59:11-05:00
[2017_department_of_the_interior_accomplishments.pdf](#)

Esteemed MAGA Colleagues,

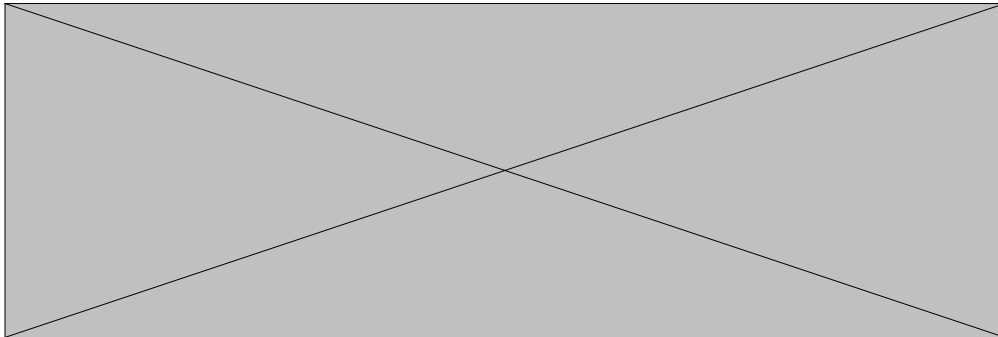
If there was ever a time to brag about the Trump Administration and the work that DOI is specifically doing, it's now!

We couldn't have accomplished this much without you, so THANK YOU for all your hard work in 2017!

For anyone who thinks we aren't winning, the proof is in the pudding, and our pudding is DELICIOUS!

Cheers to 2017, yet the upcoming year is going to be even YUGER!

MAGA,
Jason Funes



Date: December 28, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Promises Made, Promises Kept: Interior Releases Comprehensive List of Accomplishments under President Trump & Secretary Zinke

WASHINGTON – Today, the U.S. Department of the Interior released a [list of accomplishments](#) that the Department has achieved under the leadership of President Donald J. Trump and Secretary Ryan Zinke. The accomplishments represent the unique balance of development, conservation, and preservation that the Department is charged with overseeing,

including leading in American Energy Dominance, restoring public access to public lands, and providing regulatory relief for hard working American citizens.

“The President promised the American people that their voices would be heard and that we would prioritize American interests, and I'm proud to say that this year the Department of the Interior has made good on those promises,” **said Secretary Zinke**. “Across the Department we are striking the right balance to protect our greatest treasures and also generate the revenue and energy our country needs. We ended the war on coal, and we restored millions of acres of public land for traditional multiple use. We expanded access for recreation, hunting and fishing on public lands, and also started looking at new ways to rebuild our National Parks. This is just the tip of the iceberg. Next year will be an exciting year for the Department and the American people.”

Throughout Secretary Zinke’s Senate confirmation process, he made many promises to the American tax payer, and the [list of accomplishments](#) shows how the Department is keeping the promises that were made. Additionally, Zinke fulfilled confirmation promises to Senators to visit DOI holdings in their home states, including [Florida](#), [New Mexico](#), [Utah](#), [Alaska](#), [Idaho](#), [Louisiana](#), [Tennessee](#), [Maine](#), [Colorado](#), [Arizona](#), and [Texas](#).

Below is a summary of major accomplishments according to Secretary Zinke's Top Ten Priorities at the Department:

1. Create a conservation stewardship legacy, second only to Teddy Roosevelt

Under Secretary Zinke's leadership, the Department opened public access to the Sabinoso Wilderness which contains some of the most pristine sportsmen opportunities in the country, expanded hunting and fishing access on 10 National Wildlife Refuges, and successfully defended a mineral withdrawal near the Grand Canyon and supports a withdrawal north of Yellowstone.

2. Sustainably develop our energy & natural resources

Under Secretary Zinke's leadership, the Department held the second largest offshore wind lease sale, ended the Obama-era ban on coal mining on federal lands, and increased energy revenues to states and Tribes by more than a billion dollars.

3. Restore trust & be a good neighbor

At Secretary Zinke's recommendation, the President restored traditional multiple-use public access to over a million acres of land in Utah while creating five distinct monument units at Grand Staircase-Escalante and Bears Ears National Monuments. Under Zinke's leadership, the Department also opened up the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge for emergency cattle grazing after a wildfire, and reopened U.S. Virgin Islands National Park ahead of the busy Christmas tourism season, helping the Islands' economic recovery.

4. Ensure Tribal sovereignty means something

President Trump nominated the first Alaska Native woman to serve as the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs and issued the first-ever Presidential Emergency Declaration for a Tribe.

Secretary Zinke signed the Pechanga water rights settlement, restored the rights of Alaska Natives to sell handicrafts, and asked Congress to formally designate Tribal co-management of Shash-Jaa area of Bears Ears National Monument.

5. Increase revenues to support DOI and national interests

Under Secretary Zinke's leadership, the Department increased energy revenues to states by more than a billion dollars over the previous year.

6. Protect our people and the border

President Trump and Secretary Zinke secured full funding authorization of the compact with Palau in order to strengthen the United States strategic defense in the Pacific. Hundreds of DOI law enforcement officers deployed to evacuate, prepare and respond to hurricanes in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

7. Strike a regulatory balance

Under Secretary Zinke's leadership, the Department reduced the semi-annual regulatory agenda by more than 50-percent, initiated 21 deregulatory actions, saving the economy \$3.8 billion over time.

8. Modernize our infrastructure

Secretary Zinke announced repairs to the historic Arlington Memorial Bridge, which carries 68,000 vehicles a day, will be completed under budget and ahead of schedule. The Secretary approved important infrastructure projects like the Boardman/Hemingway Transmission Line and the Mountain Valley Pipeline while also approving more than \$80 million for parks and recreation grants.

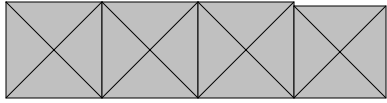
9. Reorganize DOI for the next 100 years

The Secretary is crafting a plan to reorganize the Department of the Interior in a way that better manages our federal lands and pushes more assets to the field. The philosophy has earned bipartisan support in Congress and among governors.

10. Achieving our goals, leading our team forward

Partnership for Public Service announced in its "The Best Places to Work" survey the Department of the Interior (DOI) has improved from 11th place to 9th place among all the large agencies. Secretary Zinke has made improving the work experience a priority while at the Department, and the numbers from the report show a significant jump towards reaching that goal. Additionally, the Secretary announced the Department would be dog friendly in an effort to boost morale and attract top candidates.

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2017 DOI Accomplishments

Secretary Zinke's Top Ten Priorities –

- **Create a conservation stewardship legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt**
- **Sustainably develop our energy & natural resources**
- **Restore trust and be a good neighbor**
- **Ensuring sovereignty means something.**
- **Increase revenues to support DOI and national interests**
- **Protect our people and the border.**
- **Strike a regulatory balance.**
- **Modernize our infrastructure.**
- **Reorganize DOI for the next 100 years.**
- **Achieve our goals and lead our team forward.**

1. Create a conservation stewardship legacy, second only to Teddy Roosevelt

○ Secretary Zinke Signs Order to Review Obama-Era Sage-Grouse Plans, Improves Conservation and Strengthens Communication Between States and Federal Government (BLM)

○ Secretary Zinke Signs Order to Expand Access for Sportsmen on Public and Private Lands-Prioritize Hunter Engagement, Improve Federal-State Conservation Efforts (USFWS)

○ Yellowstone Grizzly Bear's Strong Recovery Leads to Delisting (USFWS)

- Department of the Interior Hosts the First Sportsman's Access Summit (USFWS, BLM & NPS)
- Interior Overturns Ban on Affordable Lead Ammo and Fishing Tackle (USFWS)
- Secretary Zinke Announces \$1.1 Billion in Funding to State Wildlife Agencies (USFWS)
- Secretary Zinke Establishes "Made in America" Recreation Advisory Committee to Leverage Public Private Partnerships and Investment on Public Lands (NPS, USFWS & BLM)
- Secretary Zinke Announces 10 Wildlife Refuges Will Open or Expand Public Access for Hunting and Fishing (USFWS)
- Interior Strengthens Commitment to Hunting and Fishing by Declaring October as National Hunting and Fishing Month (USFWS)
- Secretary Zinke Hosts First-Ever Veterans Roundtable to Expand Access to Public Lands for Service Members (BLM, NPS & USFWS)
- 16,000 Acres in the Sabinoso Wilderness Opened Up to the Public for the First Time Ever. (BLM)
- Secretary Announces the Creation of the International Wildlife Conservation Council (USFWS)

2. Sustainably develop our energy & natural resources

- Secretary Zinke Calls for Enhanced Exploration of Energy Opportunities with the Development of the Outer Continental Shelf (BSEE & BOEM)

- Interior Held Second Largest Offshore Wind Sale Near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina (BOEM)

- Secretary Zinke Signs Order to Jumpstart Alaskan Energy Production NPR-A, 1002 and Offshore (BLM, BOEM, & USGS)

- Secretary Zinke Signs Comprehensive Energy Order to End the Obama Ban on Coal Mining on Federal Lands and Review Costly Mitigation Policies (DOI)

- Secretary Zinke Announces Largest Oil and Gas Lease Sale Ever in United States (BOEM & BSEE)

- Secretary Zinke Issues Lease for 56 Million Tons of Coal in Central Utah (BLM)

- Secretarial Order Establishes Executive Committee for Expedited Permitting (BLM, BOEM, BSEE & NPS)

- New Interior Department Survey Shows Huge Increase in Recoverable Energy Resources in Alaska (BOEM, USGS & BLM)

3. Restore trust & be a good neighbor

- President Trump and Secretary Zinke Announce Proclamations to Adjust Boundaries of National Monuments (BLM)

- Zinke Applauded for Helping to Release Funds Long Overdue for Swain County, North Carolina (DOI)

- Zinke Submits Recommendations to President on National Monuments: Restores Multiple-Use and Maintains all Public Lands (DOI)

- Secretary Zinke Travels to Florida to Assess Hurricane Damage to National Parks and Fast Track Recovery Efforts (NPS)

- Interior Authorizes Full Decision Making Power to Bikini Islands Over Annual Budget (OIA)

- Secretary Opens the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge for Emergency Grazing After Wildfire (USFWS)

- Ahead of Two Category Five Hurricanes, Zinke Expedited Release of Funding for the U.S. Virgin Islands (OIA & NPS)

- National Park Service Completes the Reopening of the Virgin Islands National Park After Hurricane Irma Devastates the Island (NPS)

4. Ensure Tribal sovereignty means something

- Tara Mac Lean Sweeney Becomes First-Ever Female Alaska Native Nominated to Serve as Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs (BIA)

- Water Rights Settlement Signed with Pechanga Band of Luiseño Mission Indians (BIA)

- Secretary Zinke Established a Royalty Policy Committee to Improve Energy Leases on Federal Land and Waters, Giving Tribes a seat at the Table (ONRR)

- Alaskan Natives Have Rights Restored to Sell Handicrafts (BIA)

5. Increase revenues to support DOI and national interests

- Energy Disbursements Grow by \$1 Billion Over Previous Year (ONNR)

- BLM Issues Timber Payments of Nearly \$20 Million to Rural Oregon Counties (BLM)

- Utah Coal Lease Approved for \$22 Million (BLM)

- Gulf of Mexico Lease Generates \$275 Million (BSEE)

- Onshore Oil and Gas Lease Sales Net \$317 Million in Revenue (BLM & BSEE)

6. Protect our people and the border

- Secretary Takes Aggressive Action to Prevent Wildland Fires (BLM, OWF, NPS, USFWS & BIA)
- Seminole Tribe Receives Presidential Emergency Declaration (BIA)
- Secretary Zinke and Perdue Host Inter-Agency Wildfire Listening Session with Federal, State and Local Stakeholders (DOI)
- Bureau of Indian Affairs Coordinates with Indian Health Service to Provide Naloxone Training to BIA Officers to Reverse Effects of Opioid Overdose (BIA)
- Quick Response by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Staff Assists the Power-Starved Communities of Hatteras and Ocracoke Islands (USFWS)
- Trump and Zinke's Budget Plan Approved, Authorizes Full Funding of Palau Compact Agreement, Strengthening U.S. Strategic Defense in the Pacific (OIA)

7. Strike a regulatory balance

- Secretary Zinke Signs Order to Review Costly and Burdensome Red Tape in Order to Advance American Energy (DOI)
- Department of Interior Outlines Costly and Burdensome Regulations to Repeal or Rewrite to Achieve American Energy Dominance (DOI)

- Interior Streamlines Permitting Process Under the National Environmental Policy Act (DOI)
- Environmental Impact Statements Limited to 150 Pages (DOI)
- Interior Reduces the Semi-Annual Regulatory Agenda by More than 50% (DOI)

8. Modernize our infrastructure

- Interior Approves Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project that Creates Jobs and Improves Energy Infrastructure (BLM)
- Secretary Zinke Announces the Arlington Memorial Bridge Project is Under Budget and Ahead of Schedule (NPS)
- Secretary Zinke Announces Nearly \$32 Million in Boating Infrastructure, Recreation and Tourism Grants (DOI, USFWS, NPS & BoR)
- Secretary Announces more than \$50 Million for National Parks Infrastructure (NPS)

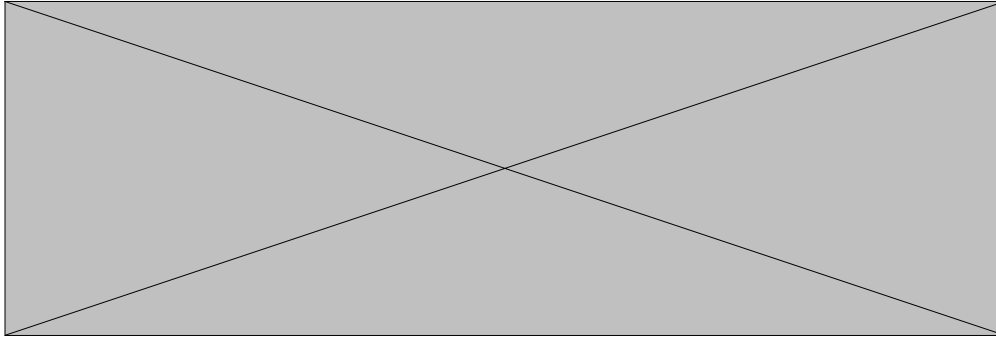
9. Reorganize DOI for the next 100 years

- The Secretary is Crafting a Plan to Reorganize the Department of the Interior (DOI)

10. Achieving our goals, leading our team forward

- Secretary Zinke Outlines Plan to Combat Workplace Harassment (DOI)
- In an Effort to Boost Employee Morale and be More Competitive in Attracting New Employees, the Department of the Interior Announces First Ever, “Doggy Days” (DOI)
- Interior Moves Up into the Top Ten of “Best Places to Work” (DOI)

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-01-04T14:13:49-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: SECRETARY ZINKE ANNOUNCES PLAN FOR UNLEASHING AMERICA'S OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS POTENTIAL
Received: 2018-01-04T14:14:23-05:00



Date: January 4, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

SECRETARY ZINKE ANNOUNCES PLAN FOR UNLEASHING AMERICA'S OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS POTENTIAL

Draft Proposed Program considers nearly the entire U.S. Outer Continental Shelf for potential oil and gas lease sales

WASHINGTON – U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke today announced the next step for responsibly developing the National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program (National OCS Program) for 2019-2024, which proposes to make over 90 percent of the total OCS acreage and more than 98 percent of undiscovered, technically recoverable oil and gas resources in federal offshore areas available to consider for future exploration and development. By comparison, the current program puts 94 percent of the OCS off limits. In addition, the program proposes the largest number of lease sales in U.S. history.

“Responsibly developing our energy resources on the Outer Continental Shelf in a safe and well-regulated way is important to our economy and energy security, and it provides billions of dollars to fund the conservation of our coastlines, public lands and parks,” **said Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke**. “Today's announcement lays out the options that are on the table and starts a lengthy and robust public comment period. Just like with mining, not all areas are appropriate for offshore drilling, and we will take that into consideration in the coming weeks. The important thing is we strike the right balance to protect our coasts and people while still powering America and achieving American Energy Dominance”

Earlier this year, 155 Members of both the [U.S. House](#) and [U.S. Senate](#) sent letters to Secretary Zinke in support of a new 5-year plan that recognizes America's potential for energy dominance.

The Draft Proposed Program (DPP) includes 47 potential lease sales in 25 of the 26 planning

areas – 19 sales off the coast of Alaska, 7 in the Pacific Region, 12 in the Gulf of Mexico, and 9 in the Atlantic Region. This is the largest number of lease sales ever proposed for the National OCS Program’s 5-year lease schedule.

“By proposing to open up nearly the entire OCS for potential oil and gas exploration, the United States can advance the goal of moving from aspiring for energy independence to attaining energy dominance,” **said Vincent DeVito, Counselor for Energy Policy at Interior**. “This decision could bring unprecedented access to America’s extensive offshore oil and gas resources and allows us to better compete with other oil-rich nations.”

Release of the DPP is an early step in a multi-year process to develop a final National OCS Program for 2019-2024. Today's draft proposal was informed by approximately 816,000 comments from a wide variety of stakeholders, including state governments, federal agencies, public interest groups, industry, and the public. Before the program is finalized, the public will have additional opportunities to provide input. The 2017-2022 Five Year Program will continue to be implemented until the new National OCS Program is approved.

“This plan is an early signal to the global marketplace that the United States intends to remain a global leader in responsible offshore energy development and produce affordable American energy for many decades to come,” **said Katharine MacGregor, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management**. “This proposed plan shows our commitment to a vibrant offshore energy economy that supports the thousands of men and women working in the offshore energy industry, from supply vessels to rig crews.”

Inclusion of an area in the DPP is not a final indication that it will be included in the approved Program or offered in a lease sale, because many decision points still remain. By proposing to open these areas for consideration, the Secretary ensures that he will receive public input and analysis on all of the available OCS to better inform future decisions on the National OCS Program. Prior to any individual lease sale in the future, BOEM will continue to incorporate new scientific information and stakeholder feedback in its reviews to further refine the geographic scope of the lease areas.

“American energy production can be competitive while remaining safe and environmentally sound,” **said Acting BOEM Director Walter Cruickshank**. “Public input is a crucial part of this process, and we hope to hear from industry groups, elected officials, other government agencies, concerned citizens and others as we move forward with developing the 2019-2024 National OCS Program.”

The Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act requires the Secretary of the Interior, through BOEM, to prepare and maintain a schedule of proposed oil and gas lease sales in federal waters, indicating the size, timing, and location of leasing activity that would best meet national energy needs for the five-year period following Program approval. In developing the [National OCS Program](#), the Secretary is required to achieve an appropriate balance among the potential for environmental impacts, for discovery of oil and gas, and for adverse effects on the coastal zone.

BOEM currently manages about 2,900 active OCS leases, covering almost 15.3 million acres – the vast majority in the Gulf of Mexico. In fiscal year 2016, oil and gas leases on the OCS

accounted for approximately 18 percent of domestic oil production and 4 percent of domestic natural gas production. This production generates billions of dollars in revenue for state and local governments and the U.S. taxpayer, while supporting hundreds of thousands of jobs.

Gulf of Mexico:

The DPP includes 12 sales in the Gulf of Mexico, one of the most productive basins in the world and where oil and gas infrastructure is well established. The draft proposal continues the current approach to lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico by proposing 10 biannual lease sales in those areas of the Western, Central, and Eastern Gulf of Mexico that are not subject to Congressional moratorium or otherwise unavailable, and two sales in the portions of the Eastern and Central Gulf of Mexico after the expiration of the Congressional moratorium in 2022. This is the first time the majority of the Eastern GOM Planning Area would be available for leasing since 1988.

Alaska:

The DPP proposes 19 lease sales in the Alaska Region (3 in the Chukchi Sea, 3 in the Beaufort Sea, 2 in Cook Inlet, and 1 sale each in 11 other program areas in Alaska). These 11 program areas consist of the Gulf of Alaska, Kodiak, Shumagin, Aleutian Arc, St. George Basin, Bowers Basin, Aleutian Basin, Navarin Basin, St. Matthew-Hall, Norton Basin, and Hope Basin. No sales are proposed in the North Aleutian Basin Planning Area that has been under Presidential withdrawal since December 2014.

Pacific:

The DPP proposes 7 lease sales in the Pacific Region (2 each for Northern California, Central California, and Southern California, and 1 for Washington/Oregon). There have been no sales in the Pacific Region since 1984. Currently there are 43 leases in producing status in the Southern California Planning Area.

Atlantic:

The DPP proposes 9 lease sales in the Atlantic Region (3 sales each for the Mid- and South Atlantic, 2 for the North Atlantic, and 1 for the Straits of Florida). There have been no sales in the Atlantic since 1983 and there are no existing leases.

NEXT STEPS

In conjunction with the announcement of the DPP, the Department is also publishing a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

Public meetings will be held around the country starting on January 16, 2018, to receive comments on the DPP and to inform the Draft Programmatic EIS. Specific dates, times, and venues will be posted on BOEM's website at <https://www.boem.gov/National-Program/>.

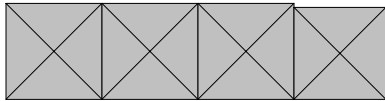
Using the information received from these public meetings, BOEM will prepare a Proposed Program (PP), which will be published for public comment, to be followed by a Proposed Final

Program (PFP). In addition, the Department will prepare a Draft Programmatic EIS to be published concurrently with the PP, and a Final EIS with the PFP.

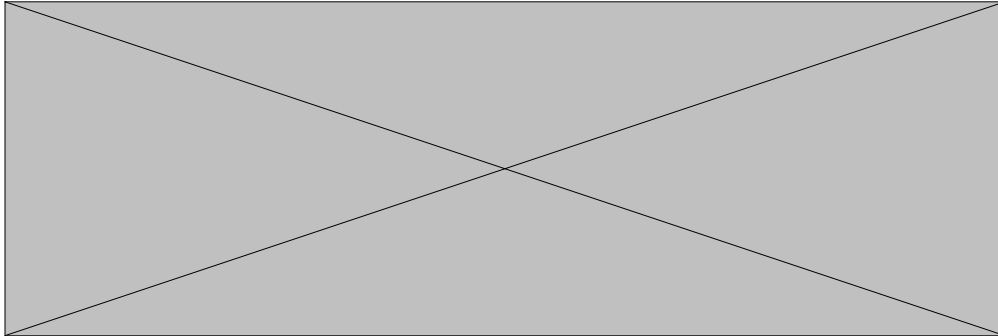
The DPP and the NOI will be available for public comment for 60 days following the publication of the documents in the Federal Register.

For more information about the National OCS Program, including maps, please visit: <http://www.boem.gov/National-Program/>

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From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-01-09T10:03:05-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Applauds President Trump's Commitment to Expand Rural Broadband
Received: 2018-01-09T10:03:39-05:00



Date: January 8, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Applauds President Trump's Commitment to Expand Rural Broadband

Interior to allow private companies to co-locate broadband infrastructure on public lands

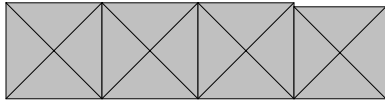
WASHINGTON – Today, President Donald J. Trump signed an executive order and a presidential memorandum which together will increase broadband availability for rural Americans. The memo to Secretary Zinke directs the Department of the Interior to develop a plan to allow private high-speed broadband companies to co-locate their equipment on Interior infrastructure. With Interior owning as much as 83 percent of the land in some western states, this move is expected to make it more accessible and affordable for companies to provide broadband to rural Americans.

"The Department of the Interior owns and manages hundreds of millions of acres of land across the rural west. From grazing lands in Nevada and Wyoming to reservation lands in Arizona or Oklahoma, we cover a lot of ground and it requires a lot of infrastructure. The President and I think private companies should be able to use that infrastructure if it's for the public good," **said Secretary Zinke**. "President Trump's order will help bridge the digital divide for the millions of Americans who live in rural areas. Whether it's a student taking a class via distance learning, a small clinic practicing telemedicine, or a mom-and-pop garage small business using e-commerce platforms, expanding high-speed broadband access will have incredible benefits for rural America."

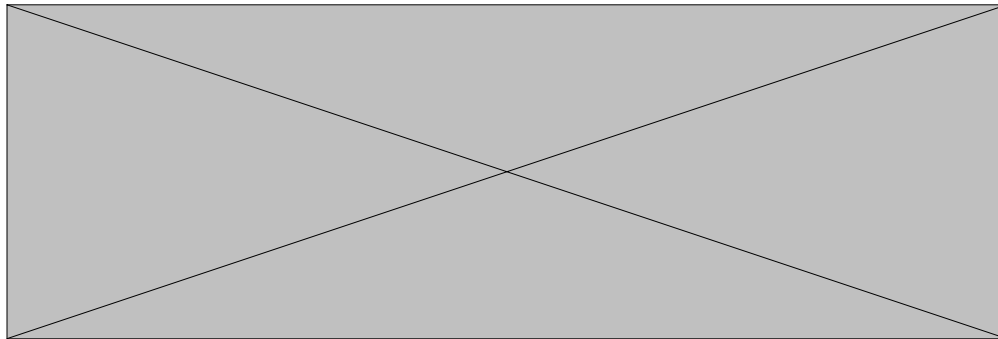
According to the FCC, nearly 23 million Americans in rural parts of the country currently lack access to broadband. In modern society, this cuts them off from many services and economic opportunities. As highlighted in the President's Rural Prosperity Report, the rural broadband

industry supported nearly 70,000 jobs and over \$100 billion in commerce. Through the Department of the Interior's work on the Rural Prosperity Task Force and by direction from the President, we are dedicated to ensuring that the U.S. Government is creating an environment that helps, not hinders, the deployment of broadband services to rural Americans.

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From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-01-09T13:48:43-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Creates New Council for Hunting and Shooting Sports Conservation
Received: 2018-01-09T13:49:16-05:00



Date: January 9, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Creates New Council for Hunting and Shooting Sports Conservation

Calls for Nominations

WASHINGTON – Continuing his unyielding support for hunting, fishing, and the American conservation ethic, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke today announced the creation of the Hunting and Shooting Sports Conservation Council. The Council is intended to provide the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture with advice regarding the establishment and implementation of existing and proposed policies and authorities with regard to wildlife and habitat conservation. The Council will examine ways to benefit wildlife resources; encourage partnership among the public, the sporting conservation organizations, state, tribal, territorial, and federal government; and benefit recreational hunting and recreational shooting sports.

“Hunters and anglers are the backbone of wildlife and habitat conservation in America. Through the purchase of duck stamps, bows, ammo, firearms, and more, sportsmen and women contribute billions of dollars to conservation. From my perspective, the more sportsmen we have in the woods and waters, the better our wildlife and habitat will be,” **Secretary Zinke said.** “The Council will be made up of experts that share their knowledge, experience, and recommendations on a number of policy proposals put before them, as well as helping the Departments come up with innovative ideas to improve the health of wildlife and their habitat and increase sportsmen access on public and private lands.”

The Council is strictly advisory and the duties will consist of providing recommendations for implementation of Executive Order No. 13443 (E.O.): Facilitation of Hunting Heritage and Wildlife Conservation, Secretarial Order No. 3347: Conservation Stewardship and Outdoor Recreation, and Secretarial Order No. 3356 (S.O.): Hunting, Fishing, Recreational Shooting, and

Wildlife Conservation Opportunities and Coordination with States, Tribes, and Territories.

Recommendations from the Council to the Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Agriculture shall include, but not be limited to:

- Assessing and quantifying implementation of the Executive Order and Secretarial Orders across relevant departments, agencies, offices, and recommendations to enhance and expand their implementation as identified;

Policies and programs that:

- Conserve and restore wetlands, agricultural lands, grasslands, forests, and range land habitats;
- Promote opportunities and expand access to hunting and shooting sports on public and private lands;
- Encourages hunting and shooting safety by developing ranges on public lands;
- Recruit and retain new shooters and hunters;
- Increase public awareness of the importance of wildlife conservation and the social and economic benefits of hunting and shooting;
- Encourage coordination among the public, hunting and shooting sports community, wildlife conservation groups, state, tribal, territorial, and federal government.

Since his first day in office, Secretary Zinke:

- Reversed an order that would have banned lead ammo and tackle on National Wildlife Refuge lands.
- Expanded hunting and fishing opportunities at 10 national wildlife refuges
- Signed a wide-ranging order to expand sportsmen access on public and private land, improve collaboration between the federal, state and Tribal wildlife management authorities, and create a "one-stop" website for all hunting and fishing opportunities on public lands
- Directed bureaus to open hunting and fishing on all national monument lands where legally allowed
- Finalized a land acquisition to make the Sabinoso Wilderness Area accessible to hunters for the first time ever

Individuals may submit comments and/or nominations by any of the following methods:

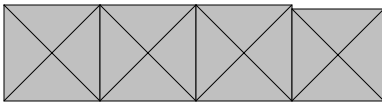
- Mail or hand-carry nominations to Joshua Winchell, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Wildlife Refuge System, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803; or
- Email nominations to: joshua_winchell@fws.gov

The Council will meet approximately twice a year, and at such other times as designated by the Designated Federal Officer. The Council will terminate 2 years from the date the charter is

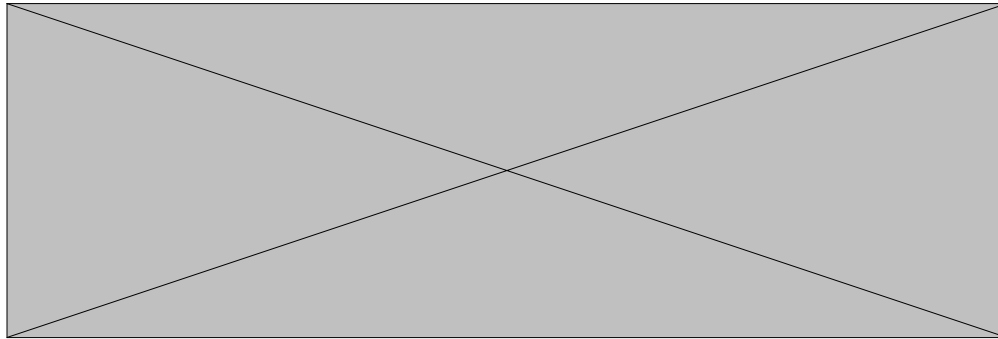
filed, unless, prior to that date, it is renewed in accordance with the provisions of Section 14 of the FACA. The Council will not meet or take any action without a valid current Charter.

The Council is established to further the provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742a), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701), the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 668dd), other Acts applicable to specific bureaus, and Executive Order 13443, "Facilitation of Hunting Heritage and Wildlife Conservation." The Council is regulated by the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C. Appendix 2.

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-01-09T17:56:57-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Department of the Interior Names New National Park Service Deputy Director
Received: 2018-01-09T17:57:53-05:00



Date: January 9, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Department of the Interior Names New National Park Service Deputy Director

WASHINGTON – The Department of the Interior today announced Paul Daniel (Dan) Smith as a new Deputy Director of the National Park Service (NPS). Smith brings nearly four decades of public service experience, including serving as superintendent of Colonial National Historical Park in Virginia, to this important leadership role.

As Deputy Director, Smith will have a crucial role in leading more than 20,000 National Park Service employees who care for America's 417 national parks and NPS programs that help communities across the nation preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities.

“Dan has a strong record of leadership in the National Park Service both in Washington and on the front lines as a superintendent of a park that tells the stories of some of the most consequential moments in American history,” said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke. “I can think of no one better equipped to help lead our efforts to ensure that the National Park Service is on firm footing to preserve and protect the most spectacular places in the United States for future generations.”

“It is an honor and a privilege to return to Washington D.C., with the invaluable perspective from the field that I gained during my time as Superintendent of Colonial National Historical Park,” said Smith.

Smith served as superintendent of Colonial National Historical Park from 2004 to 2015, where

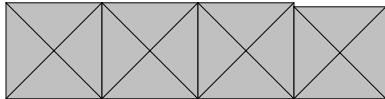
he managed a 23-mile parkway and three historic sites including the first permanent British colony in America at Jamestown and the site of the 1781 Revolutionary War victory of General George Washington over British General Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown. During his tenure at the park Smith oversaw the completion of a new visitor center and a new research center at Jamestown in preparation for the 400th anniversary commemoration of the settlement in 2007.

Smith's other assignments in the National Park Service include serving as Special Assistant to the National Park Service Director and Assistant Director of Legislative and Congressional Affairs. He also served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks at the Department of the Interior, where he was responsible for the multi-billion dollar budgets and programs of the National Park Service and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in coordination with congressional representatives, state and local governments, and other important partners. Smith worked at the General Services Administration for ten years.

In addition to Smith's Executive Branch experience he has held numerous important roles in the Legislative Branch as a staff member for a U.S. senator, a congressman, and two congressional committees.

Smith was born in Maine. A Vietnam War veteran, Smith served in the U.S. Army's 4th Infantry. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Master of Science in Recreation Administration from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He is an Eagle Scout.

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-01-12T14:26:01-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Conference Call at 3pm - Common Regional Boundaries Stakeholder Call
Received: 2018-01-12T14:26:37-05:00
[Common Regional Boundaries FAQ.pdf](#)
[Draft Common Regional Boundaries Map.pdf](#)

Department of Interior Associate Deputy Secretary to Discuss Draft Common Regional Boundaries

Department of the Interior (DOI) Associate Deputy Secretary, Jim Cason, will host a stakeholder call on January 12th at 2pm to discuss proposed draft DOI common regional boundaries..

The discussion will be focused on common regional boundaries for the Bureaus within the Department. We envision these proposed boundary changes will reduce administrative redundancy, share resources more effectively, improve coordination among federal, state and local agencies, improve interagency coordination, drive more decisions to be made at the regional level rather than in Washington DC, and facilitate joint problem-solving.

The conference call will outline the vision for the proposed common regional boundaries, address reasons for the proposed boundary changes and highlight the next steps.

Attached is the proposed draft common regional boundary map and FAQs related to the draft common regional boundary concept. As always, we look forward to your participation on the call and your feedback.

WHO: Jim Cason, Associate Deputy Secretary, Department of Interior

WHAT: Stakeholder call on draft common regional boundaries concept

WHEN: January 12 , 2018 at 3p.m. (Eastern)

CALL: (b)(5) **(Password:** (b)(5)

Jason Funes

Special Assistant

Intergovernmental and External Affairs

Office of the Secretary

Department of the Interior

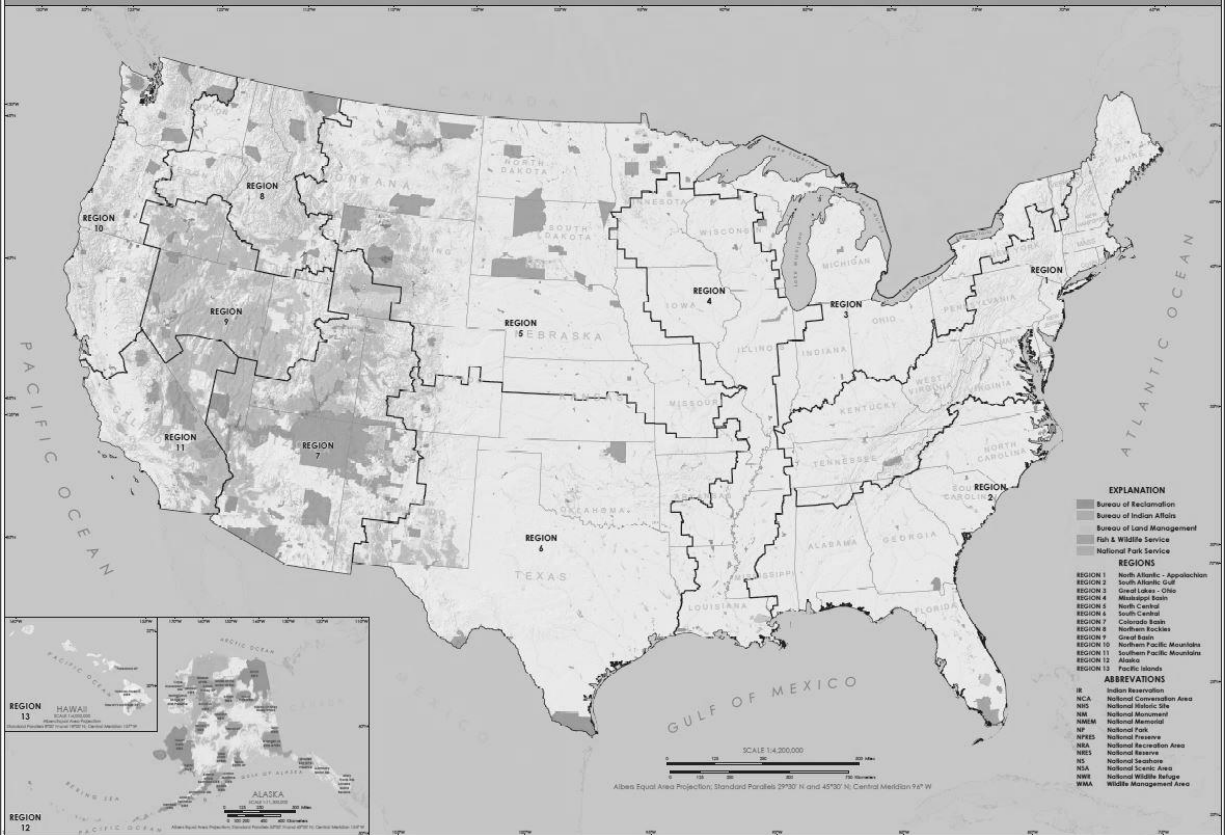
Office: (202) 208-5541



Department of the Interior Common Regions

As of January 3, 2018

DRAFT



Common Regional Boundaries

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why is Interior changing long standing regional boundaries?

A. We want to provide better management on an ecosystem basis to include critical components such as wildlife corridors, watersheds, and trail systems. The USGS has provided draft regional boundaries based on watersheds as a template. By having common regional boundaries based on natural features like ecosystems and watersheds we can improve interagency coordination and citizen service, since all of our executives within a given region will have a shared frame of geographic reference. We also believe common regions will make us more efficient, which would be helpful given our continuing budget pressures. With more decisions made at the regional level and fewer in Washington DC, we hope the public will conclude that we are making better decisions.

2. Will all bureaus be affected by the new boundaries?

A. Generally yes, but since Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) are focused on activity in the marine environment, they will be the least affected.

3. When will the new boundaries take effect?

A. Once Congress approves the necessary reprogramming request we will then need to take some internal administrative actions, but we expect the boundaries for the thirteen new common regions will take effect in the second half of FY 2018.

4. Will there be a pilot of the new common region concept? If so, where, when, and what will be its scope?

A. The current idea is to launch the concept in Alaska first, since it is a large geographic area, most bureaus are active there, all existing regional offices are already in the same city, and there is only one state government with which to interact.

5. When is common region concept going to begin?

A. FY 2018, after Congress approves the reprogramming for the new regional boundaries.

6. When will the common regions be fully implemented?

A. It will take several years, because there are lots of details that will need to be worked out over time.

7. Will DOI break existing leases for office space?

A. Generally not, since we want to avoid any extra financial costs that may be associated with breaking existing leases.

8. When will the new regional hub cities be identified?

A. Perhaps as soon as the second half of FY 2018.

9. Has DOI spoken to General Services Administration (GSA) about what the new regional hub cities will be?

A. We have had a few very preliminary discussions, simply to get an idea about the range of available space costs and space availability in a few western cities. We don't plan any moves in FY 18.

10. Who will be in charge of each common region?

A. There will be a regional leader who will have lead responsibility for each common region.

11. What will be the scope of responsibilities for each regional leader?

A. The responsibilities will be to coordinate a specified set of mission and administrative functions that are common to more than one bureau within the region.

12. Will the regional leader control all decisions of all bureaus in the common region?

A. No, only matters involving more than one bureau.

13. Will the common regions lead to closing of any national parks, national wildlife refuges, national fish hatcheries, or BIA agency offices?

A. No. There will be little to no impact on these types of local offices that are tied to specific natural or cultural resources or Indian tribes.

14. How will the new DOI common regional boundaries affect other agencies like USFS, NMFS, EPA, and the Army Corps of Engineers?

A. We will invite other agencies to co-locate with us or designate liaison officers to each of our common regions.

15. What will be the role of bureau directors and assistant secretaries after the reorganization?

A. Bureau directors and assistant secretaries will continue to have authority over national policy, budget, personnel, training, uniforms, workforce planning and related functions, as well as line authority over mission areas that are unique to particular bureaus.

16. How will the new regional boundaries affect relationships with States and Counties?

A. We expect these relationships will be improved since more decisions will be made at the regional level and not elevated to Washington DC for resolution.

17. How will the new regional boundaries affect relationships with Indian tribes?

A. We expect these relationships will be improved since more decisions will be made at the regional level and not elevated to Washington DC for resolution.

18. Will there be tribal consultations before the new boundaries are finalized?

A. Yes.

19. Isn't it a problem if a single state is split into more than one common region?

A. No, since there is ample evidence that this works fine in practice, based on decades of experience with the current regional boundaries of the Bureau of Reclamation and the Army Corps of Engineers.

20. Will front line supervisors in bureau field offices report to a different boss as a result of the new regional boundaries?

A. No, however the regional leader for the common region will be the ultimate regional decision maker for many bureau employees.

21. How will the new regional boundaries affect how employees do their jobs every day in the field?

A. The new boundaries should have very little impact on field operations, except that field level employees can expect more leadership support for taking steps to coordinate more closely with employees in their sister bureaus or other federal agencies that affect our mission in the field.

22. If the regional leader is not from my bureau, how can he or she make responsible decisions affecting my program?

A. The regional leader will be able to consider the advice of each bureau's chain of command within the common region.

23. Has the Department established standard operating procedures, MOAs, chains of command or organization charts on how the current structure will work within the new regional map?

A. We plan to work with current regional directors and bureau leadership to determine the most effective and reasonable ways to operationalize the new approach. Any changes will need to be carefully identified and thoughtfully implemented.

24. Would regional changes affect any statutory responsibilities?

A. We do not anticipate the need to change any bureau's statutory authorizations as a result of implementing common regions.

25. Does the Department expect each bureau to be represented in each region? How will this work for bureaus that have limited or no responsibilities in a region (e.g. OSM in the insular region)?

A. We do not expect that every bureau will have a regional director in each new region; we will let existing programmatic responsibilities be the determining factor in that regard.

26. What authority will the new common regions have versus the existing structure? Will the new regional leader be the responsible officer for construction projects, records, procurement, and other activities conducted by staff currently located in another regional office? How will this work? For example, if a current project or program is in the NPS Midwest Region, managed out of Omaha, and the project now is in the DOI Great Lakes-Ohio region, where would the management happen?

A. In general, activities or functions common to more than one bureau will be under the direction of the regional leader in that region. For major projects that are already underway it may be prudent to make exceptions on a case-by-case basis. As existing office space leases expire, staff associated with a regional office function will gradually migrate to the identified regional hub city in each newly designated region.

27. What if the project, agreement or plan was previously within one region, but is now split between two or more regions?

A. In these situations, the region that is designated the lead region will be the one whose staff and expertise is best positioned to bring the project, agreement, or plan to a successful completion.

28. How will the Department manage existing MOAs and MOUs with other agencies at existing regions?

A. Decisions to transfer the lead responsibility for a MOU or MOA with another agency will be made on a case-by-case basis. Considerations will include whether the agreement is geographic or programmatic in scope, and which of the new regions has the personnel or expertise in the best position to effectively implement the agreement.

29. Considering most DOI bureaus have less than 13 regions, this would increase the number of managers. Would this require hiring more managers?

A. During the first year or so transition period it is more likely that a single manager might have responsibilities in more than one region. Over time, it is likely that the total number of bureau regional directors will increase so that all regions where a bureau has a significant presence have a senior manager located in that region. However, some of the new regional directors might be GS-15s as opposed to SESers, if their bureau's presence in the new region is relatively minor.

30. Do you expect an official in a current regional office to be responsible for more than one region? How would the chain of command work for this?

A. It is possible that during the transition period a single senior executive might have more than one supervisor. However, field offices of bureaus will only report to one individual.

31. Does this initiative require the reassignment of any personnel (e.g., will current Regional Director positions be changed)?

A. Generally no. We will want to make sure that there is eventually one regional leader in place in each region, and more broadly, that there is at least one SESer in each region. In one or two instances, that may involve the near-term change in duty station of someone now in the SES.

32. Who will serve as regional leaders for these new regions? Will this affect their position description? If there are multiple virtual RDs within a new Region, to whom will existing staff report?

A. Regional leaders will be career or non-career members of the SES. They will have position descriptions created that describe their responsibilities within the new region. Their particular responsibilities and therefore their position description may vary a bit from region to region as a function of the DOI work that is taking place within each region. Bureaus will continue to have Regional Directors and their bureau chains of command will report to them. The difference will be for mission areas or administrative functions that are common to more than one bureau within the same region, the Regional Directors for those bureaus will take direction from the regional leader. Supervisors in individual bureaus will continue to report to a Regional Director from that bureau. The Regional Directors will report to the regional leader for certain specified programmatic and administrative activity, and to their bureau director in headquarters on those matters not within the scope of responsibilities of the regional leader.

33. How will the bureau Regional Directors coordinate with counterparts in other bureaus in the same region?

A. Bureau Regional Directors will have their traditional authorities and upward reporting relationships for programs and functions not specified as being within the purview of the regional leader. For those programs and functions that they share with other bureaus within that region, they can and should coordinate with each other, but they will be ultimately responsible to the regional leader within that region.

34. How will the bureau Regional Directors coordinate with other Regional Directors within their same bureau?

A. Bureaus will continue to have routine meeting of headquarters and regional leadership, and coordinate with each other routinely in order to accomplish their missions.

35. How will a bureau deal with stakeholders (including state and tribal governments) that were previously within one region, but now are split between two or more virtual regions?

A. Tribal governments will have one BIA Regional Director and one regional leader with whom they might interact, depending on the issue. In some cases a state may find itself in more than one of the new regions. While at first blush that might seem problematic, decades of experience in the Bureau of Reclamation and Army Corps of Engineers indicates that the arrangement works.

36. The new regional boundaries map appears to split-up reservations (Uintah and Ouray, Colville, Yakama, etc.) How does DOI plan on working with tribes that span two regions?

A. We believe we have made successfully adjusted the new regional boundaries so that no Indian reservation, national park, or similar land management unit is in more than one of the new regions. If we have somehow failed to accomplish that goal in a particular place, we would like to know about it so we can address the situation.

37. As this is a policy decision affecting tribes, will DOI consult with tribes on this under EO 13175?

A. Yes, DOI plans to consult with tribes before BIA and BIE are incorporated into the new regional management concept and the new regional boundaries.

38. As these regions were designed to address ecosystem-based management, how would this reorganization address tribal needs and help DOI fulfill trust responsibilities?

A. Indian reservations exist in unique geographic areas, and while the topography within large reservations may span more than one ecosystem, a management perspective that is based on natural features and regional control rather than administrative boundaries with primary reporting relationships to Washington DC should result in better decisions for everyone, Indian and non-Indian, living in a geographic area.

39. What administrative simplicity would be achieved by using county-line based boundaries? Do the administrative benefits of using county lines apply equally to all agencies?

A. The basic idea behind the new regional boundaries was to try to draw them based on ecosystem and physiographic features. Watersheds are well-defined and well-recognized natural features that serve as a reasonable approximation for ecosystems, hence the new regional

boundaries closely approximate watershed boundaries. However, human beings are much more accustomed to dealing with county boundaries than watershed boundaries as they lead their daily lives, so for convenience the new regional watershed-based boundaries are adjusted to line up with county boundaries.

40. Do any bureaus currently draw regional boundaries along county lines?

A. Most DOI's bureaus have historically drawn regional boundaries along state lines.

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-01-19T18:33:43-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: BOEM Seeks Public Input for 2019-2024 National OCS Offshore Oil and Gas Leasing Program
Received: 2018-01-19T18:34:21-05:00

Esteemed Colleagues,

For those (or your members) who may not be able to attend the regularly scheduled "town hall" style meetings regarding the Draft Proposed Program regarding the new OCS 5 year plan, please see the press release below for information on virtually attending those meetings so that you can still provide input regarding your respective state...

Also here is the link for comments on the federal register:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/01/08/2018-00083/notice-of-availability-of-the-2019-2024-draft-proposed-outer-continental-shelf-oil-and-gas-leasing>

Thank You,

Jason Funes

Special Assistant

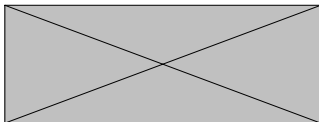
Intergovernmental and External Affairs

Office of the Secretary

Department of the Interior

Office: (202) 208-5541

Launches Virtual Meeting Room Ahead of 23-City Public Meeting Tour



BOEM Seeks Public Input for 2019-2024 National OCS Offshore Oil and Gas Leasing Program

Launches Virtual Meeting and 23-City Public Meeting Tour

Contact: Tracey Moriarty
703-787-1571

On January 4, 2018 the Department of Interior announced publication of a Draft Proposed Program (DPP) in support of the National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program (National OCS Program), as well as a Notice of Intent (NOI) to develop a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

In order to obtain public input for these two documents, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) will be traveling to 23 cities to host a series of public meetings. The meetings will feature information stations hosted by BOEM experts, who will be available to discuss the National OCS Program and DPP, as well as potential environmental issues. In addition to information stations, attendees will be able to provide hand-written or electronic comments for BOEM's consideration.

BOEM has also launched a virtual meeting room on the BOEM website to allow those who are unable to attend a meeting access to the same information and a means to participate in the commenting process. Citizens can provide comments by visiting www.regulations.gov or www.boem.gov/comment.

The entire list of public meetings are available at boem.gov/National-Program-Participate and the virtual meeting room is available at boem.gov/virtual.

After considering information provided by the public, BOEM will prepare a Proposed Program, which will be published for a 90-day public comment period, to be followed by a Proposed Final Program (PFP).

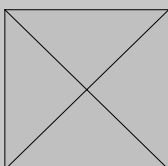
BOEM will publish a draft PEIS for public comment concurrently with the Proposed Program and a final PEIS concurrently with the PFP.

The draft PEIS and the final PEIS will examine the potential environmental impacts of the program options and alternatives and will be available to the Secretary of the Interior prior to him making decisions on Proposed Program and the Proposed Final Program.

- BOEM -

About the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) promotes economic development, energy independence, and environmental protection through responsible, science-based management of offshore conventional and renewable energy and marine mineral resources.



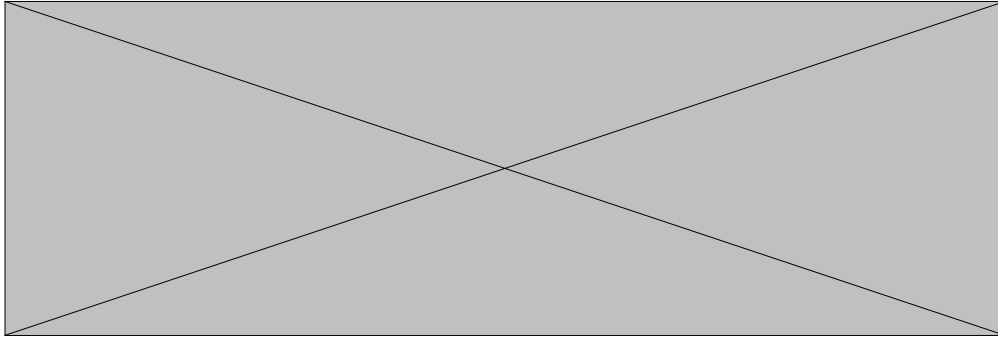
For More Information:

BOEM
Office of Public Affairs
202.208.6474

Please visit us at

www.BOEM.gov

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-01-19T18:42:03-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Approves the Shawnee Tribe's Fee-to-Trust Application for a Gaming Facility
Received: 2018-01-19T18:42:37-05:00



Date: January 19, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Approves the Shawnee Tribe's Fee-to-Trust Application for a Gaming Facility

Project will bring in \$30M in annual revenue and create 200 permanent jobs

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. – At a signing ceremony today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke approved the Shawnee Tribe's application to put 102.98 acres of land in Guymon, Texas County, Oklahoma, into federal Indian trust status for gaming. The Shawnee Tribe proposes to develop a 42,309-square foot gaming facility on the site comprised of a 20,206-square foot gaming floor, a restaurant, retail space, and office spaces for the Shawnee Tribe Gaming Commission. When completed, the project is expected to generate a \$30 million annual impact for the local economy, including creating 200 permanent jobs. The federally recognized tribe, landless for well over 160 years, is headquartered in Miami, Okla., and has approximately 2,500 members.

"One of my top priorities for the Department of the Interior is to make tribal sovereignty meaningful, and that includes providing the basis for tribes to build and strengthen their economies," **Secretary Zinke said.** "This gaming facility will create 200 jobs and bring in \$30 million annually to the Tribe."

"I want to thank Secretary Zinke for approving the Shawnee Tribe's application to put land into trust, which will provide the Shawnee people with their first land base in well over a century," **said Shawnee Tribe Chief Ron Sparkman.** "We've worked hard to set ourselves on the path to a better future, and this project will help us achieve our goals of tribal self-sufficiency through economic progress."

“It is fitting we follow the acknowledgement by Congress to offer the Shawnee Tribe the ability to self-determination and self-governance by allowing economic development opportunities,” **said Governor Mary Fallin.** “I concur with the secretary of the interior’s determination that the Shawnee Tribe’s proposal will provide economic development to the Guymon and surrounding area. This will also benefit the Shawnee Tribe in helping it develop a funding source as it works toward self-determination and self-governance.”

“Federally recognized tribes should be able thrive and serve as steadfast contributors to our economy, and I am confident that the Shawnee Tribe will do so with their proposal,” **said Congressman Tom Cole.** “I’d like to thank Secretary Zinke for leading this effort, and for being at the forefront of recognizing self-governance and sovereignty among Native American tribes. Indian Country has been successful in exercising its sovereignty through its enterprises and this proposal is a clear example of that right.”

“I congratulate Chief Sparkman, the Shawnee tribal council, and tribal members for achieving this important goal,” **said John Tahsuda, Interior’s principal deputy assistant secretary for Indian Affairs.** “Their efforts to create greater economic prosperity for themselves and their future generations, combined with the approval of their fee-to-trust application, underscore the Secretary’s determination that tribal sovereignty must mean something.”

The Tribe’s application was considered under the Secretary’s authority to acquire the land in trust for it under the Shawnee Status Act of 2000 through the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934.

The application met the Department’s requirements for placing land into trust for gaming, despite the proposed site’s location being approximately 370 miles west of the Tribe’s headquarters in Ottawa County, and the Department received comments in support of the proposed project.

Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin, concurring with the Department’s positive two-part determination on the application, called for the expedient acquisition of the site into trust. Local officials supporting the application include a Texas County commissioner and the mayor of Guymon.

It was also supported by several Oklahoma tribes including the Cherokee Nation, the Eastern Shawnee Tribe, the Miami Tribe, the Modoc Tribe, the Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma, the Peoria Tribe of Indians, the Quapaw Tribe, the Seneca-Cayuga Nation, and the Wyandotte Nation.

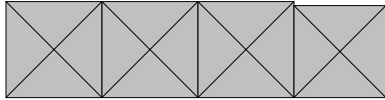
Until the Secretary’s approval of its land-into-trust for gaming application, the Shawnee Tribe had been landless since the mid-19th century, when the 1854 Treaty of Washington terminated the Tribe’s 1.6 million-acre reservation in Kansas, which had been created under earlier treaties, allotted approximately 200,000 acres to individual Indians, and opened the majority of the remaining lands to non-Indian settlement. In 1869, the United States relocated the Shawnee tribal members in Kansas, known as the Loyal Shawnee because of their service to the Union during the Civil War, to present-day Oklahoma, but did not provide the tribe with its own land base.

In 2000, Congress passed the Shawnee Status Act which reaffirmed the Tribe’s federal recognition status. That act also confirmed the Tribe’s eligibility to have land acquired in trust,

but prohibits it from acquiring trust land within the jurisdiction of the Cherokee Nation or any other tribe without its consent. The Cherokee Nation's constitution prohibits it from consenting to any action that would diminish its jurisdiction.

Because of the act's limitations, the only place the Shawnee Tribe can effectively acquire trust land is in the Oklahoma Panhandle.

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-01-22T11:30:15-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: BOEM Postpones Public Meetings for 2019-2024 National OCS Offshore Oil and Gas Leasing Program
Received: 2018-01-22T11:57:30-05:00

Esteemed Colleagues,
Due to the lapse in government funding, this week's Public Meetings regarding the new 5 year OCS DPP have been postponed and stay tuned as more may be postponed if the government continues to be shutdown.

Regretfully, I will also be unavailable during this time via email or phone until the government shutdown ends.

By law, I will be back in the office the business day after the federal government is funded, and we will let you know when these public meetings are rescheduled.

Thank You,

Jason Funes
Special Assistant
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5541

----- Forwarded message -----

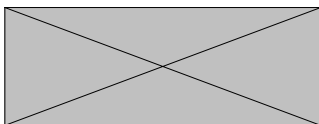
From: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Office of Public Affairs

[<boempublicaffairs@boem.gov>](mailto:boempublicaffairs@boem.gov)

Date: Mon, Jan 22, 2018 at 10:13 AM

Subject: BOEM Postpones Public Meetings for 2019-2024 National OCS Offshore Oil and Gas Leasing Program

To: jason_funes@ios.doi.gov



BOEM Postpones Public Meetings for 2019-2024 National OCS Offshore Oil and Gas Leasing Program

Dear Stakeholder:

As many of you are aware, annual funding for the government expired on January 20, 2018. A lapse in funding means that a number of government activities have ceased due to a lack of appropriated funding and because a number of employees have been temporarily furloughed.

As such, the meetings scheduled for January 22-25, 2018 in support of the 2019-2014 National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program (National OCS Program) are postponed.

If the government shutdown continues, any public meetings scheduled during that time also will be rescheduled. After the government opens again, we will update the status of any postponed meetings via our website at:

<https://www.boem.gov/National-Program-Participate/#meeting>.

Background

On January 4, 2018, the Department of Interior **announced** publication of a Draft Proposed Program (DPP) in support of the National OCS Program, as well as a Notice of Intent (NOI) to develop a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

In order to obtain public input for these two documents, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) scheduled a series of public meetings. Information about the National OCS program can be found at <https://www.boem.gov/National-Program>.

Thank you,

Tracey Moriarty

Deputy Chief and Media Manager, Office of Public Affairs

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

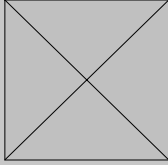
Tel: (703) 787-1571

Cell: (202) 304-6476

Tracey.Moriarty@boem.gov

About the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

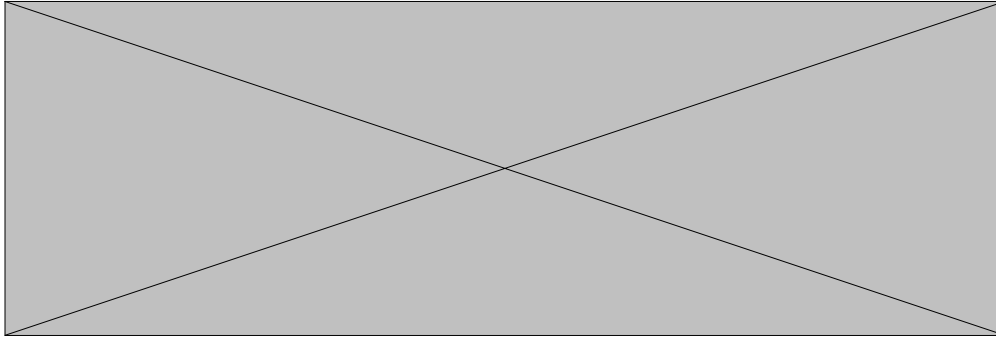
The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) promotes economic development, energy independence, and environmental protection through responsible, science-based management of offshore conventional and renewable energy and marine mineral resources.



For More Information:
BOEM Office of Public Affairs
Tracey Moriarty (703) 787-1571

Please visit us at
www.BOEM.gov

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-01-22T12:09:26-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Approves Initial Plan to Build a Life-Saving Road for Alaska Native Village of King Cove
Received: 2018-01-22T12:16:30-05:00



Date: January 22, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Approves Initial Plan to Build a Life-Saving Road for Alaska Native Village of King Cove

WASHINGTON - Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke signed an [agreement](#) with the Alaska Native King Cove Native Corp., which is made up of tribal members from the local Agdaagux and Belkofski tribes, to build a life-saving road between the Native village and the nearby all-weather airport in Cold Bay. The village of King Cove is an isolated area in the Aleutian peninsula that currently lacks any safe and reliable ground transportation for medical evacuation in the case of an emergency. There have been 18 deaths attributed to the lack of road access, either in plane crashes or the inability to receive timely medical treatment. In a community with no hospital or doctor, King Cove residents must fly 600 miles to Anchorage for most medical procedures.

The [agreement](#) signed today begins a process between Interior and the King Cove Native Corp. of identifying land of equal value needed for a single lane, restricted-access road.

The Aleut residents of King Cove have worked for more than three decades to win federal approval of a single-lane, life-saving road corridor connecting their isolated community to the all-weather Cold Bay Airport. A small stretch of road, approximately 12 miles long, is all that is needed to link King Cove to the existing road system within the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge, which is located next to an 10,000-foot runway. The corridor will provide the village with its first and only dependable ground transportation for medical emergencies.

"Above all, the federal government's job is to keep our people safe and respect our treaty commitments with Native Americans and Alaska Natives. Today, I am proudly fulfilling both of those missions," **said Secretary Zinke**. "Previous administrations prioritized birds over human

lives, and that's just wrong. The people of King Cove have been stewarding the land and wildlife for thousands of years and I am confident that working together we will be able to continue responsible stewardship while also saving precious lives."

"The people of King Cove deeply appreciate the dedication and hard work Secretary Zinke and his team have put in to make this land exchange possible," **said Della Trumble, spokeswoman for the King Cove Native Corp. and a member of the local Agdaagux tribe.** "Access to the all-weather airport in Cold Bay is truly a matter of life and death to us, so we are eternally grateful to all those who have listened to the people of our region. Today's agreement goes a long way toward restoring our faith that the federal government takes seriously its trust responsibility to the Aleut and to all Alaska Natives."

Also participating in the ceremony were Alaska Governor Bill Walker, Senators Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan, Congressman Don Young, U.S. Coast Guard Vice Admiral, and more than 120 members of the Alaska Federation of Natives for an announcement on important Alaska priorities at the Department.

"Common sense and compassion have finally prevailed," **Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, said.** "For decades, the people of King Cove have asked for what virtually every other American already takes for granted - a reliable way to protect their health and safety and improve their quality of life. Previous administrations have focused on just about everything except the most obvious solution, which has always been a short, gravel connector road. I am so pleased for King Cove and deeply grateful to Secretary Zinke and President Trump for taking this critical step."

"For years, our federal government has been telling the people of King Cove that protecting birds is more important than their health and safety," **said Senator Dan Sullivan.** "This ends today. I thank Congressman Young and Senator Murkowski for all their hard work over the years to right this wrong. I thank the Trump administration for its support, and I particularly thank Secretary Zinke for listening to the people of King Cove, whose voices have been ignored all of these many years. This is a good day for Alaska and a good day for America."

"For many years, I and many other leaders from our state have advocated for construction of a life-saving road to connect King Cove and Cold Bay. Finally, the federal government has heard our voice," **said Governor Bill Walker.** "I thank Secretary Ryan Zinke and everyone else who had a hand in making this happen. Alaskans must control our own destiny, and this decision certainly empowers the residents of King Cove to make sure they are safe and healthy."

"This road will provide residents of King Cove safe and reliable access to an airstrip and to commercial medevac services," **said Admiral Paul F. Zukunft, Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard.** "It will significantly reduce the risk our U.S. Coast Guard aircrews are exposed to while operating in one of the U.S. Coast Guard's most unforgiving environments – Alaska."

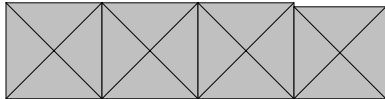
"I have been working with the residents of King Cove for over 30 years to help them get a life-saving road to the community of Cold Bay. This is a great day not only for King Cove, but for all of Alaska," **said Alaska Congressman Don Young.** "In 2013, Sally Jewell decided that birds were more important than people, and today we finally have a Secretary who takes the life and death of Alaska Natives seriously. I want to thank Secretary Zinke on behalf of all Alaskans for

his work in getting the King Cove road approved. I look forward to working with him on other issues for our great state.”

For photos from the signing event, see [Interior's Flickr page](#).

For B-roll from the event, see [Interior's YouTube page](#).

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<https://youtu.be/pwWblIX7Gdg>

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From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-01-25T15:23:36-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: DOI Accomplishments Being Celebrated - Day 1 Public Access
Received: 2018-01-25T15:30:18-05:00

Esteemed Colleagues,
Interior is currently rolling out a media campaign highlighting our accomplishments via videos on social media and op-eds in local papers across the country. This will take place weekdays until Wednesday of next week.

Please feel free to share these via your social media pages or websites.

Day 1: Public Access

The video links are below (op-ed will be shared once released):

Twitter - <https://twitter.com/Interior/status/956582487408435200>

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/USInterior/videos/1537474796306196/>

<https://youtu.be/BQZgNcsO8h0>

Thank you,

Jason Funes
Special Assistant
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5541

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-01-26T16:28:54-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: DOI Accomplishments Being Celebrated - Day 2 Regulatory Relief
Received: 2018-01-26T16:36:37-05:00

Esteemed Colleagues,

As DOI continues it's media campaign highlighting our accomplishments via videos on social media and op-eds in local papers across the country; below is the link to our video on regulatory relief.

Once some of the op-eds are published over the weekend, I will share those with you.

Please feel free to re-tweet and share this video on your social media pages.

[Day 2: Regulatory Relief](#)

Twitter - <https://twitter.com/Interior/status/956978410009473030>

Thank you,

Jason Funes
Special Assistant
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5541

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-01-29T17:37:20-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: DOI Accomplishments Being Celebrated - Day 3 Energy Dominance
Received: 2018-01-29T17:38:35-05:00

Esteemed Colleagues,

Please re-tweet and share this video on your social media pages regarding "Energy Dominance".

Twitter - [Energy Dominance Video](#)

As DOI continues its media campaign highlighting our accomplishments via videos on social media and op-eds in local papers across the country; below are links to the published Op-Eds from previous topics of accomplishments:

Public Access (By Rick May - Senior Advisor to the Secretary on Veterans and Sportsmen/Outdoor Rec) - http://www.gazettextra.com/opinion/other_views/other-views-hunting-fishing-opportunities-expand-for-wisconsin/article_b904e6e4-554f-5482-9c88-d0e23d283c12.html

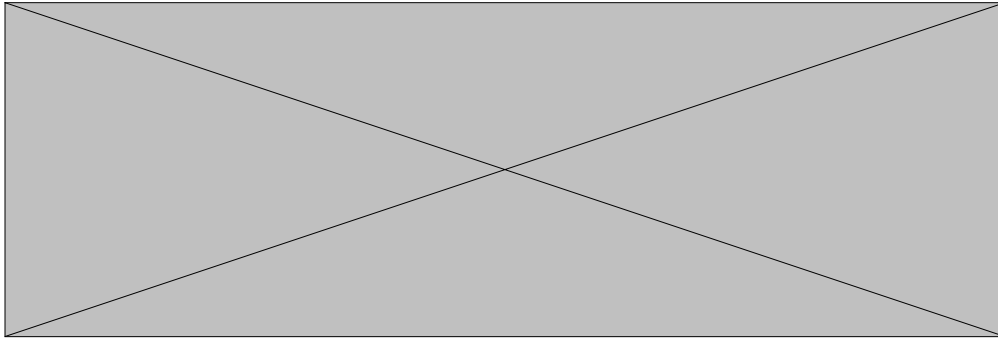
Regulatory Relief (By David Bernhardt - Deputy Secretary) - https://www.gjsentinel.com/opinion/columns/interior-s-regulatory-relief-is-paying-dividends-for-colorado/article_c281ab78-03be-11e8-bf89-10604b9f1ff4.html

Please feel free to re-tweet and share the above video and articles on your social media pages to share the DOI's great work with the rest of America.

Thank you,

Jason Funes
Special Assistant
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5541

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-01-30T18:53:36-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: SECRETARY ZINKE APPLAUDS PRESIDENT TRUMP'S NOMINATION OF JAMES F. REILLY FOR INTERIOR DEPARTMENT
Received: 2018-01-30T18:54:15-05:00



Date: January 29, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

SECRETARY ZINKE APPLAUDS PRESIDENT TRUMP'S NOMINATION OF JAMES F. REILLY FOR INTERIOR DEPARTMENT

Geologist and former astronaut nominated to lead the U.S. Geological Survey

WASHINGTON – On Friday, President Donald J. Trump announced the appointment of Dr. James F. Reilly to be the Director of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) for the U.S. Department of Interior. U.S. Secretary Ryan Zinke applauded President Trump's nomination.

As a former astronaut, Dr. Reilly completed three shuttle missions and five spacewalks during his 13 year career with NASA. He has logged over 856 hours in space. He also served on multiple geological expeditions in locations around the world, including the Antarctic Peninsula and the continental shelf of the Gulf of Mexico.

"Dr. Reilly has proven himself as an explorer, accomplished scientist, and public servant," **said Secretary Zinke**. "He will be a strong leader for the USGS as it addresses the natural resource opportunities and challenges we face as a nation. I look forward to working with him."

"I am honored to be nominated to serve at the Department of Interior under the Trump Administration," **said Dr. Reilly**. "The USGS is finding solutions to the natural resource issues that impact local communities and our nation, and I'm excited to lead its future endeavors."

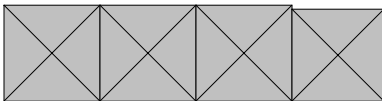
"Dr. Jim Reilly is uniquely-qualified candidate to become the next US Geological Survey Director," **said Senator Cory Gardner**. "As a former astronaut who has immense experience in

geological research, Dr. Reilly has a deep understanding of the issues at hand. He also has the management experience necessary to run USGS. It's also always good to have someone with some Colorado common sense in positions like this one. I look forward to Congress getting to know Dr. Reilly during the confirmation process."

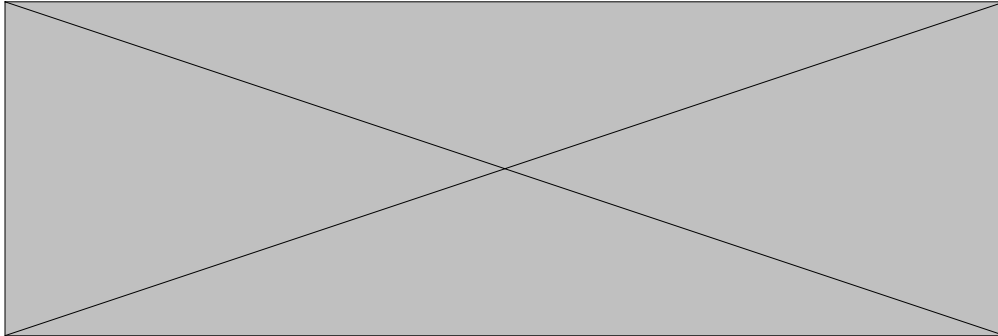
"James Reilly will make an excellent head of the USGS. He brings years of experience and knowledge to the table," **said Congressman Doug Lamborn.** "Without a doubt, the Department of the Interior will flourish under his leadership. It's always great to see a fellow Coloradan representing us."

Dr. Reilly currently serves as a subject matter expert and curriculum developer for the U.S. Air Force National Security Space Institute. He has extensive leadership experience in the private sector, military, and academic organizations. He received his bachelor's, master's, and doctorate degrees in Geosciences from the University of Texas at Dallas.

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From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-01-31T09:31:56-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Responds to President Trump's State of the Union
Received: 2018-01-31T09:32:38-05:00



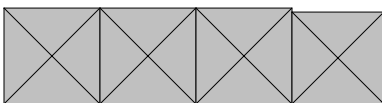
Date: January 30, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Responds to President Trump's State of the Union

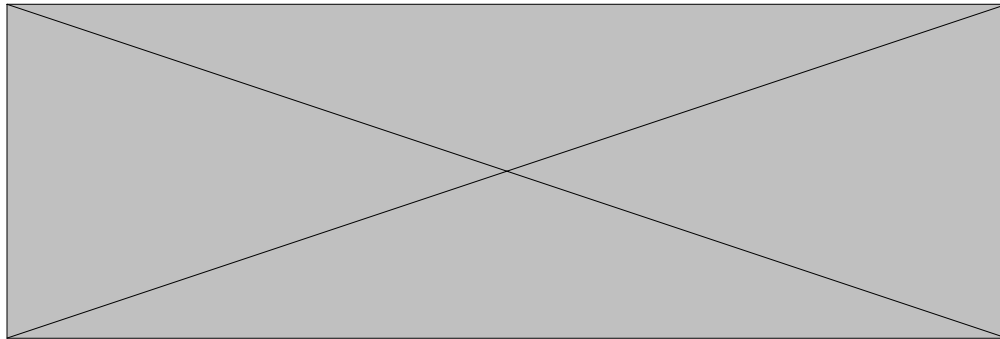
WASHINGTON – The following statement is from U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke in response to President Trump's State of the Union.

"Tonight, President Trump spoke from the heart about issues that unite all Americans like rebuilding our infrastructure, improving education, growing the economy, and honoring our veterans and first responders. Already we have seen the President's policies and tax reform spark greater investments in our energy sector, from the coalmines of Appalachia to the oil fields of the Permian Basin, managed by the Bureau of Land Management. Interior stands ready to support the President's mission to unite and rebuild our great Nation."

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-02-01T15:42:45-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Secretary Zinke Signs Declaration Recognizing Marian Anderson Mural in First-Ever Designation of a Site Under the African American Civil Rights Network Act
Received: 2018-02-01T15:43:20-05:00



Date: February 1, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Signs Declaration Recognizing Marian Anderson Mural in First-Ever Designation of a Site Under the African American Civil Rights Network Act

WASHINGTON – On the first day of Black History Month, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke today celebrated the life and legacy of famed opera singer Marian Anderson by designating a mural depicting her 1939 Lincoln Memorial concert as a historic site under the [African American Civil Rights Network Act of 2017](#). President Donald J. Trump signed the Act into law in January 2018. This is the first time the Act has been used to designate a site.

"The civil rights movement is one of the most moving chapters of the American story – the people and events that shaped this period of history continue to inspire Americans to this day," **Secretary Zinke said**. "Few events from this era stand out as more inspirational than the story of accomplished opera singer Marian Anderson holding a concert on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial after being barred from singing at Constitution Hall because of the color of her skin. As Secretary of the Interior, I am proud to call special attention to this aspect of our American heritage on the 75th anniversary of the dedication of a mural that captures the spirit of that groundbreaking event and serves as a cultural resource of national significance."

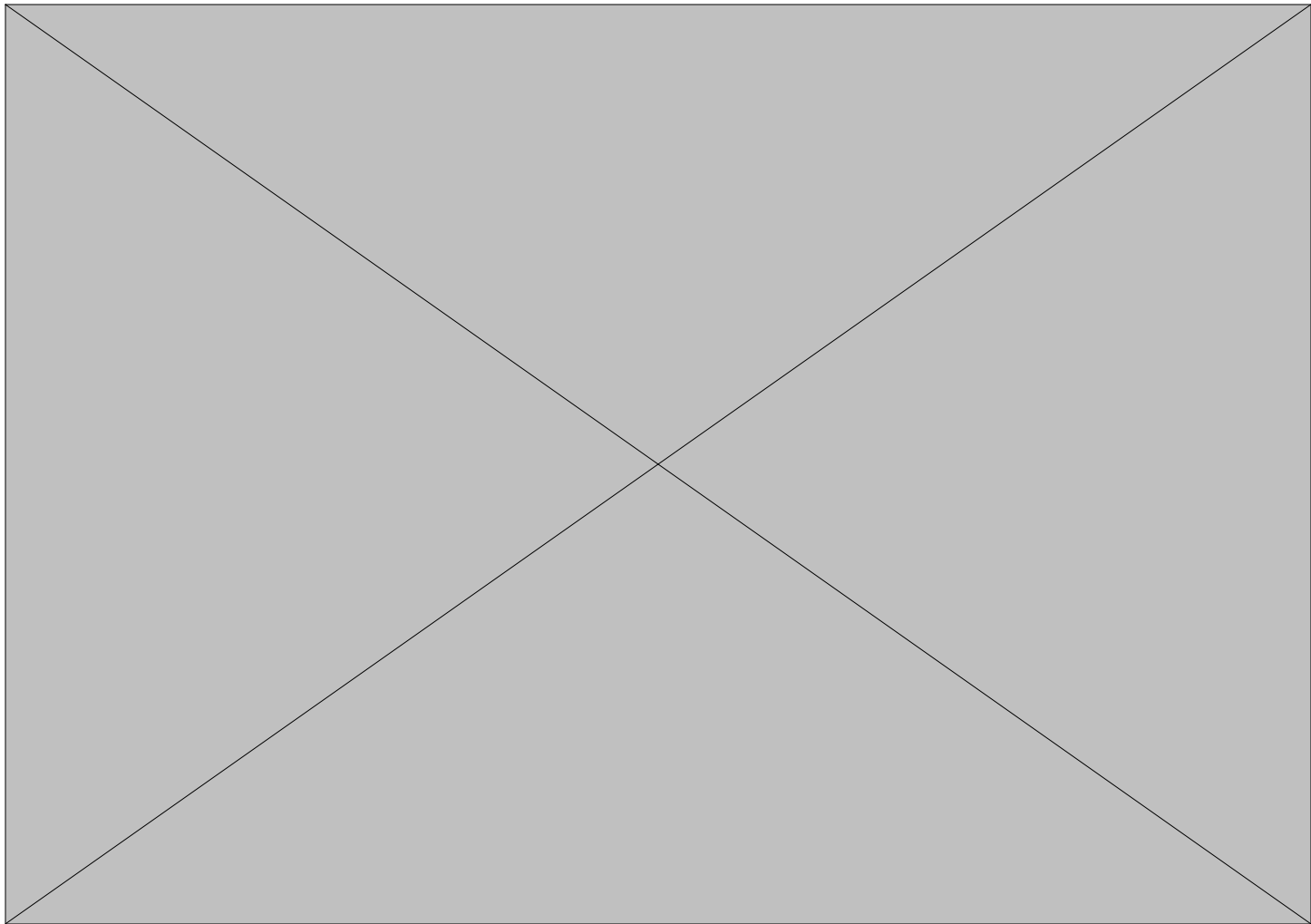
"I am glad to see Secretary Zinke and the Department of Interior utilizing the African American Civil Rights Network Act to honor such an important early moment in the Civil Rights movement," **South Carolina Senator Tim Scott said**. "The mural of Marian Anderson's

concert at the Lincoln Memorial captures this historic event for generations to come, and this recognition is a fantastic way to celebrate Black History Month.”

“It’s wonderful that Marian Anderson, and the mural depicting her 1939 Lincoln Memorial concert, are receiving recognition as we celebrate Black History Month," **said Utah Congresswoman Mia Love.** "Ms. Anderson’s concert at the Lincoln Memorial is an important and significant event in black history. Long before the modern civil rights movement, her accomplishments served as an example of a woman refused to be defined by society. She had a wonderful voice, and she used it to empower others at a time when wasn’t always easy to do so.”

“The Marian Anderson Museum is humbly honored to participate in such a historic and sacred event honoring the legacy of our great Marian and Mitchell Jamieson’s timely and poignant piece," **said Ms. Jillian Pirtle, President of the Marian Anderson Historical Society.**

The Secretary signed the declaration at a ceremony co-hosted by the Marian Anderson Historical Society, high school activist Desmond Hertzfelder, family members of the mural's artist and members of the Anderson family. The event featured a musical homage to the late singer and civil rights leader by the National Marian Anderson Scholar artist program based in Philadelphia.



About Marian Anderson's historic performance:

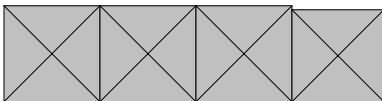
In 1939, Constitution Hall was at the center of a Civil Rights crisis when the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), an all-white organization of descendants of Revolutionary War soldiers, denied the world famous singer Marian Anderson use of its concert hall for a performance.

At that time, Constitution Hall was the only local venue large enough to accommodate Anderson's typical audience, but the venue banned black performers. The organization would not make an exception for Anderson and claimed the hall was already booked. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and Anderson's manager arranged for her to sing instead on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. Accompanied by a piano, Anderson first serenaded an integrated gathering of 75,000 people with the patriotic ballad, "My Country, 'Tis of Thee." Although Anderson and the DAR maintained the incident was merely a misunderstanding, the singer's outdoor concert became a symbol for Civil Rights activism nationwide. Anderson would go on to sing at Constitution Hall in front of an integrated audience in 1943.

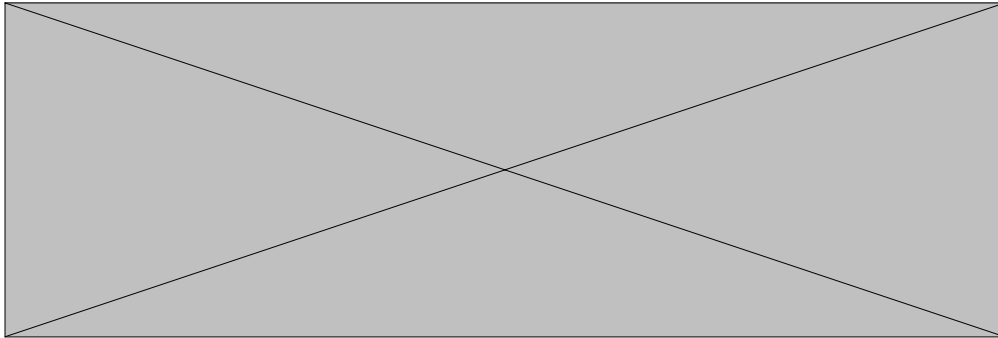
About the African American Civil Rights Network Act of 2017:

This law requires the Department of the Interior to establish within the National Park Service (NPS) a U.S. Civil Rights Network that encompasses: (1) all NPS units and programs that relate to the African American civil rights movement from 1939 through 1968; (2) with the property owner's consent, other federal, state, local, and privately owned properties that relate or have a verifiable connection to such movement and that are included in, or eligible for, the National Register of Historic Places; and (3) other governmental and nongovernmental facilities and programs of an educational, research, or interpretive nature that are directly related to such movement.

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-02-06T11:12:23-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Announces Expanded Role for Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas to Include Ocean Activities and International Affairs Part of Reorganization to Improve Missions and Efficiency
Received: 2018-02-06T11:13:23-05:00



Date: February 5, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Announces Expanded Role for Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas to Include Ocean Activities and International Affairs

Part of Reorganization to Improve Missions and Efficiency

WASHINGTON – U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke announced today the signing of [Secretarial Order #3361](#), expanding the functions and responsibilities of the Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Doug Domenech to include the Office of International Affairs and the Ocean, Great Lakes, and Coastal Program (Oceans Program) currently under the Assistant Secretary for Policy Management and Budget. The new expanded portfolio will now be called the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs.

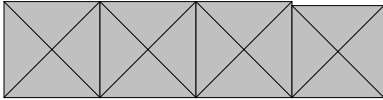
“This realignment is part of the Department’s overall efforts to reorganize for the next 100 years and improve mission achievement,” **said Secretary Zinke**. “By elevating the profiles of all three of these components within Interior, we aim to renew and strengthen U.S. strategic interests, strengthen relationships and policies for U.S. oceans, Great Lakes and coastal communities, and enhance collaboration globally on behalf of the American people.”

“I look forward to continuing my work on Insular Areas issues and incorporating Oceans and International issues all at the Secretarial level,” **said Assistant Secretary Domenech**. “My work to highlight their importance and critical priorities at the highest levels here within Interior and

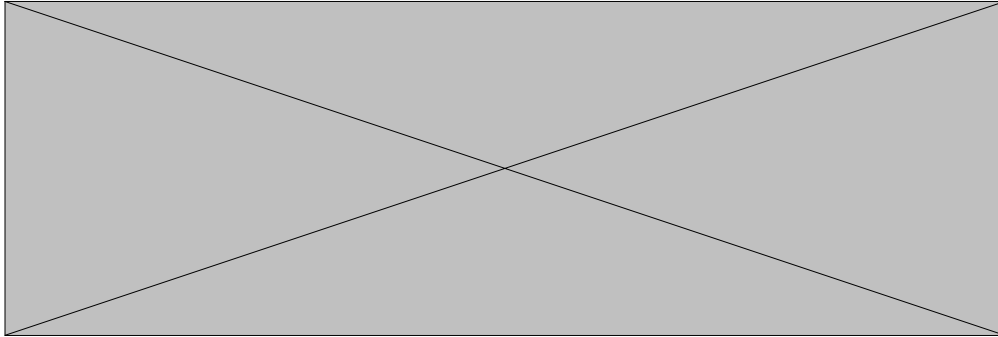
across the Federal government does not change.”

The Office of Insular Affairs, the Ocean, Great Lakes, and Coastal Program, and the Office of International Affairs will continue to be led respectively by Nikolao Pula, Liza Johnson, and Karen Senhadji. All three will now report to the Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs.

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-02-13T11:32:52-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: President's \$11.7 Billion Proposed FY 2019 Budget for Interior Includes Legislation to Strengthen Infrastructure and Address Deferred Maintenance
Received: 2018-02-13T11:33:36-05:00



Date: February 12, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

President's \$11.7 Billion Proposed FY 2019 Budget for Interior Includes Legislation to Strengthen Infrastructure and Address Deferred Maintenance

Budget also focuses on economic growth, responsible energy development and reorganizing for the next 100 years

WASHINGTON – President Donald Trump today proposed an \$11.7 billion Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 budget for the Department of the Interior that includes a legislative proposal to establish the Public Lands Infrastructure Fund. The Fund will provide up to \$18 billion to address Interior's deferred maintenance backlog in national parks, national wildlife refuges and Bureau of Indian Education schools through funding from energy leasing revenues. The legislation complements the President's national infrastructure investment proposal and recognizes the importance of a long-term investment in America's treasures.

Along with strengthening the nation's infrastructure, the proposed budget prioritizes economic growth and expanded public access for outdoor recreation. The budget enables Interior to carry out its core mission of responsible multiple-use of public lands in a way that both conserves America's iconic landscapes and supports responsible resource development. To download highlights of the DOI FY 2019 budget, click this link: <https://www.doi.gov/budget/appropriations/2019/highlights>

"President Trump is absolutely right to call for a robust infrastructure plan that rebuilds our national parks, refuges, and Indian schools, and I look forward to helping him deliver on that historic mission," **said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke**. "Our parks and refuges are

being loved to death, but the real heart break is the condition of the schools in Indian Country. We can and must do better for these young scholars. This is not a Republican or Democrat issue, this is an American issue, and the President and I are ready to work with absolutely anyone in Congress who is willing to get the work done."

Zinke continued: "Not all visitors to our parks and public lands have the ability to hike with a 30-pound pack and camp in the wilderness miles away from utilities. Many people see our national parks from scenic overlooks and short guided hikes on paved trails. In order for families with young kids or elderly grandparents to enjoy the parks, we need to rebuild basic infrastructure like roads, trails, lodges, restrooms and visitors centers. Not since the 1950s has a President embarked on such a noble and ambitious mission to rebuild our National Parks."

The Department of the Interior oversees one-fifth of the nation's land and the entire Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). The Department is charged with overseeing energy development on federal lands and waters, grazing allotments and timber sales, water conservation and delivery, upholding Tribal trust responsibilities, conservation of wildlife and habitat, and maintaining access for recreation in National Parks and other public lands, among other priorities.

The FY 2019 budget includes the President's continued focus on the following priorities:

American Infrastructure: Investing in Interior's \$300 Billion Asset Portfolio

- Legislative Proposal to launch new Public Lands Infrastructure Fund
 - Up to \$18 billion to help pay for repairs and improvements in America's national parks, national wildlife refuges, and Bureau of Indian Education-funded schools
 - Fund supported by 50% of increased Federal energy leasing and development activities over FY 2018 Budget projections
- \$805 million to address the \$11.6 billion deferred maintenance backlog in our National Parks, which accounts for 69% of Interior's \$16 billion deferred maintenance backlog.
- Invests \$891 million for Bureau of Reclamation water systems and new capital construction
- Proposes \$28 million for Bureau of Indian Affairs' Dam Safety and Maintenance Program
- \$99 million to support U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service consultation requirements to avoid logjams on major infrastructure projects
- \$48 million to prioritize permitting in the Bureau of Land Management for energy transmission and energy related rights-of-way

America First Energy: \$792 million to power America's future

- Onshore: \$233 million to strengthen oil and gas and coal programs by improving the application and permitting processes, and supporting related rights of way
- Offshore: \$348 million includes a \$9 million increase to update the Five-Year OCS Oil and Gas Plan
- Renewables: \$73 million to keep pace with anticipated project interest for renewable energy development

- \$138 million to support effective management of mineral revenue

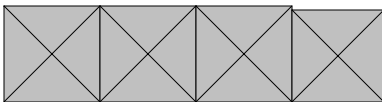
\$4.6 Billion for America's Land: Increasing access, back to the basics on stewardship

- Invests \$2.4 billion in the core operations of the National Park Service
- Addresses adaptive management challenges and provides \$101 million for work on invasive species
- Directs funds to maintain the lands we have, rather than purchasing land we cannot afford
- Includes \$89 million in mandatory funds to support Land and Water Conservation Fund State Grants
- \$473 million to support hunting, fishing, and other wildlife dependent recreation on national wildlife refuges
- \$465 million to support communities neighboring our public lands through Payments in Lieu of Taxes

Additional Legislative Priorities

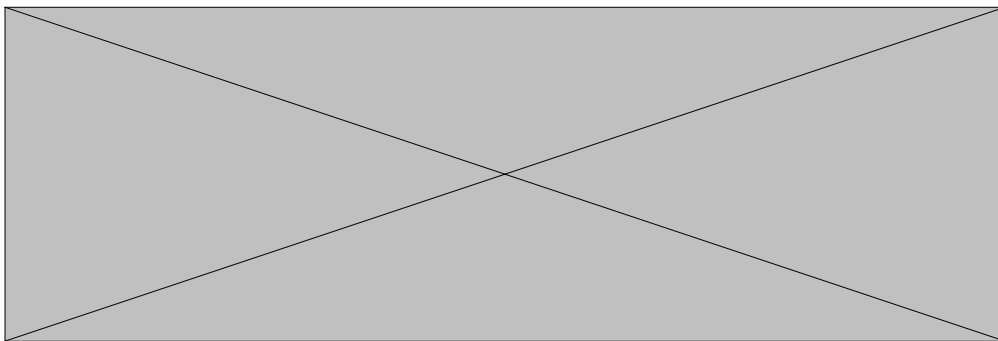
- Proposes Wildland Fire Suppression Disaster Cap Adjustment for Interior and U.S. Forest Service activities
- Proposes to reduce \$230 million in unobligated balances from the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act program
- Proposes legislation to better facilitate title transfer of Reclamation facilities
- Budget assumes permanent reauthorization of the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act
- Proposed to repeal geothermal revenue sharing payments to counties and return to traditional 50/50 Federal-state sharing
- Proposes to permanently reauthorize the Recreation Fee Program
- Reviews options to reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund

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From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-02-15T14:38:16-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: SECRETARY ZINKE PRIORITIZES CONSERVATION & BIG GAME MIGRATION CORRIDORS
Received: 2018-02-15T14:38:54-05:00

In case you missed this, this is a YUGE step towards habitat restoration and conservation issues...



Date: February 9, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

SECRETARY ZINKE PRIORITIZES CONSERVATION & BIG GAME MIGRATION CORRIDORS

*SIGNS ORDER DIRECTING MORE RESOURCES TOWARD HABITAT
RESTORATION, CONSERVATION, COLLABORATION AND RESEARCH*

SALT LAKE CITY – Today, at the Western Conservation and Hunting Expo in Salt Lake City, Utah, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke signed [Secretarial Order 3362](#), which will improve habitat quality and western big game winter range and migration corridors for antelope, elk, and mule deer. The order fosters improved collaboration with states and private landowners and facilitates all parties using the best available science to inform development of guidelines that helps ensure that robust big game populations continue to exist.

The order seeks to improve wildlife management and conservation and expand opportunities for big game hunting by improving priority habitats within important and migration corridors across the West. Priority states currently include Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

"We all know that animals go where animals want to go, and more often than not that's dependent upon natural features like watersheds, rather than whether land is owned by the BLM, state, or private landowners. We need to manage appropriately. My goal is healthy herds for American hunters and wildlife watchers, and this order will help establish better migration corridors for some of North America's most iconic big game species like elk, mule deer and antelope," **said Secretary Zinke**. "American hunters are the backbone of big game conservation efforts, and now working with state and private landowners, the Department will leverage its land management and scientific expertise to both study the migration habits of wildlife as well as identify ways to improve the habitat. For example, this can be done by working with ranchers to modify their fences, working with states to collaborate on sage brush restoration, or working with scientists to better understand migration routes."

States are prioritizing migration initiatives to better understand the habits of animals like mule deer, elk, and antelope; however, there is much work the federal government can do to better understand the animals and improve habitat. The migration patterns of these species cross over thousands of miles of all types of land including federal, private, state, and tribal. For example, in southern Utah, mule deer travel up to 110 miles into Arizona from Bryce Canyon National Park into the Arizona strip area. They cross state, private, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and U.S. Forest Service land. These species also cross tribal lands and use highway underpasses and critical public land habitats along that annual journey. The Secretarial Order initiative will help with many aspects of solving the challenges encountered along the pathways of these migratory routes.

"We greatly appreciate Secretary Zinke's commitment to improving the habitat quality of big game migratory corridors and winter range on lands managed by the department's bureaus," **said Mule Deer Foundation President and CEO, Miles Moretti**. "Big game populations have faced increasing challenges during their seasonal migrations and in the crucial winter period. Federal public lands play a critical role in the annual life cycle of mule deer and black-tailed deer and we pledge our wholehearted support and engagement to implement Secretarial Order 3362."

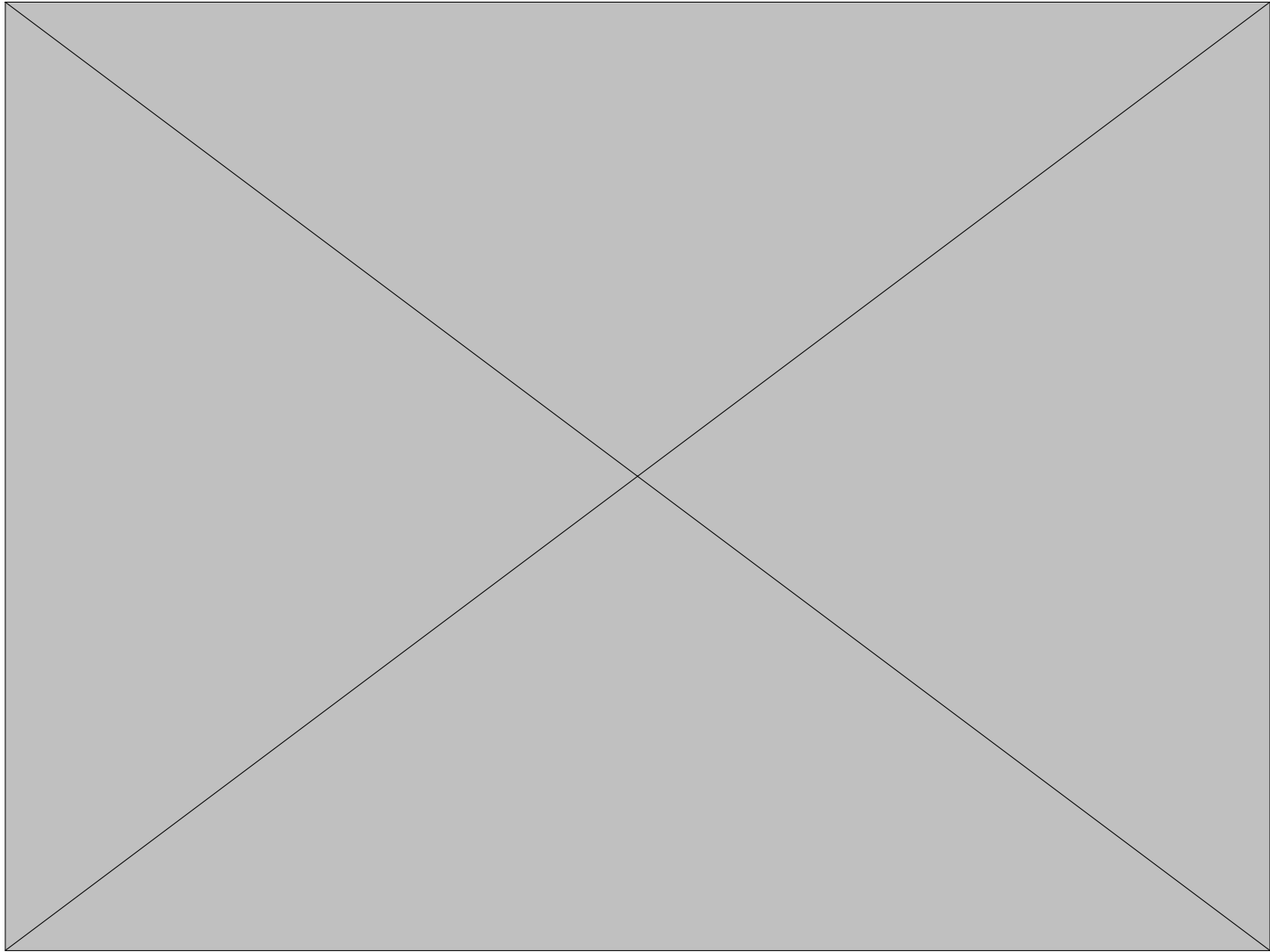
Zinke continued, "Utah is ground zero for this kind of initiative on the state level and we are looking forward to partnering with them and other states in the future. Working together we will strengthen herds and ensure big game hunting is passed down from generation to generation."

"We appreciate Secretary Zinke's recognition of the importance of wildlife migration corridors," **said Mike Styler, Executive Director of the Utah Department of Natural Resources**. "This aligns with, and significantly bolsters, the Utah Migration Initiative to identify the critical corridors and better focus our successful Watershed Restoration practices that enhance big game."

Earlier in the day, Secretary Zinke was joined by the Mule Deer Foundation and volunteers to capture, tag, collar, and release mule deer for research. The tagging and collaring the deer will allow scientists to gather more data and shed light on the migration habits of the species.

The goal of this effort lies at the heart of our conservation mission, ensuring the future of elk, other wildlife, their habitat and our hunting heritage. In order to do that we must maintain a focus on winter range and migration corridors for elk and other wildlife," **said Blake Henning**,

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation chief conservation officer. “We support stronger collaboration between landowners, agencies, conservation groups like RMEF and all others seeking to enhance habitat for the benefit of our wildlife populations.”



Later in the day, Zinke walked the floor of the Expo and was joined by local resident and youth hunter Gracie for bow and pellet gun demonstrations.

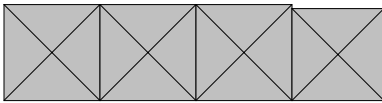
A lifelong sportsman who grew up in Montana, Secretary Zinke has prioritized sportsmen's access and healthy herds during his tenure at the Department. Since being sworn in to office in March 2017, Zinke:

- Reversed an order that would have banned affordable lead ammo and tackle on National Wildlife Refuge lands.
- Expanded hunting and fishing opportunities at 10 national wildlife refuges
- Signed a wide-ranging order to expand sportsmen access on public and private land, improve collaboration between the federal, state and Tribal wildlife management authorities, and create a "one-stop" website for all hunting and fishing opportunities on

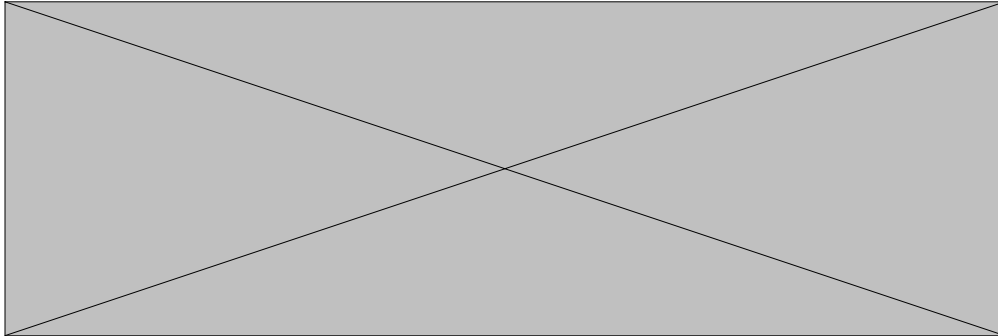
public lands

- Directed bureaus to open hunting and fishing on all national monument lands where legally allowed
- Finalized a land acquisition to make the Sabinoso Wilderness Area accessible to hunters for the first time ever
- Established advisory councils on hunting and shooting sports to help identify policy opportunities
- Highlighted the responsibility sportsmen have to public lands by hosting a public lands cleanup day at BLM land commonly used for target practice. ([see PSA here](#))

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-02-16T15:36:02-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Interior Announces Date for Largest Oil and Gas Lease Sale in U.S. History
Received: 2018-02-16T15:36:57-05:00



Date: February 16, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Interior Announces Date for Largest Oil and Gas Lease Sale in U.S. History

Final Notice of Sale Outlines All Available Areas in Federal Waters

WASHINGTON – In support of President Donald J. Trump's '[America-First Offshore Energy Strategy](#),' Deputy Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt announced that the Department will offer 77.3 million acres offshore Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida for oil and gas exploration and development. The region-wide lease sale, which is the largest in U.S. history, is scheduled for March 21, 2018, and will include all available unleased areas in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico. In 2017, offshore leases helped the Department raise a billion dollars more in revenue for the year than was made off energy revenues in 2016.

“Responsibly developing our offshore energy resources is a major pillar of President Trump's American Energy Dominance strategy,” **Deputy Secretary Bernhardt said.** “A strong offshore energy program supports tens of thousands good paying jobs and provides the affordable and reliable energy we need to heat homes, fuel our cars, and power our economy. We have the strongest safety regulations in the world and today's technology is making the responsible development of our resources even safer. We look forward to this important sale and continuing to raise energy revenues, which fund efforts to help safeguard our natural areas, water resources and cultural heritage, and to provide recreation opportunities to all Americans.”

Lease Sale 250, scheduled to be livestreamed from New Orleans, will be the second offshore sale under the National Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2017-2022. It will include about 14,776 unleased blocks, located from three to 231 miles offshore, in the Gulf's Western, Central and Eastern planning areas in water depths ranging from nine to

more than 11,115 feet (three to 3,400 meters). Excluded from the lease sale are blocks subject to the Congressional moratorium established by the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006; blocks that are adjacent to or beyond the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone in the area known as the northern portion of the Eastern Gap; and whole blocks and partial blocks within the current boundary of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary.

“American energy production can be competitive, while remaining safe and environmentally sound,” **said Vincent DeVito, Counselor for Energy Policy at Interior.** “People need jobs, the Gulf Coast states need revenue, and Americans do not want to be dependent on foreign oil.”

Money received from OCS leases (including high bids, rental payments and royalty payments) are directed to the U.S. Treasury, Gulf Coast states, the Land and Water Conservation Fund and Historic Preservation Fund.

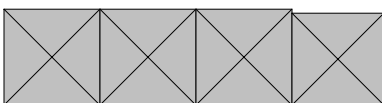
The lease sale terms include stipulations to protect biologically sensitive resources, mitigate potential adverse effects on protected species, and avoid potential conflicts associated with oil and gas development in the region. Additionally, BOEM has included appropriate fiscal terms that take into account market conditions and ensure taxpayers receive a fair return for use of the OCS. These terms include a 12.5% royalty rate for leases in less than 200 meters of water depth, and a royalty rate of 18.75% for all other leases issued pursuant to the sale, in recognition of current hydrocarbon price conditions and the marginal nature of remaining Gulf of Mexico shallow water resources.

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) estimates that the OCS contains about 90 billion barrels of undiscovered technically recoverable oil and 327 trillion cubic feet of undiscovered technically recoverable gas. The Gulf of Mexico OCS, covering about 160 million acres, has technically recoverable resources of over 48 billion barrels of oil and 141 trillion cubic feet of gas.

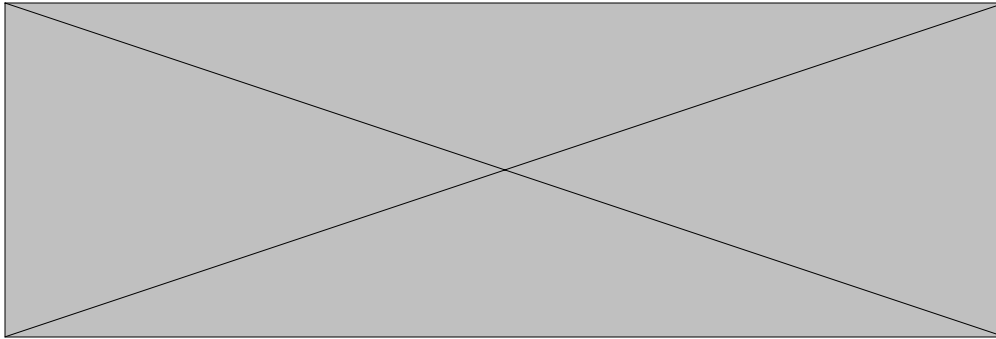
All terms and conditions for Gulf of Mexico Region-wide Sale 250 are detailed in the Final Notice of Sale (FNOS) information package, which is available at: <http://www.boem.gov/Sale-250/>. Copies of the FNOS maps can be requested from the Gulf of Mexico Region’s Public Information Unit at [201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, LA 70123](mailto:201-Elmwood-Park-Boulevard-New-Orleans-LA-70123), or at 800-200-GULF (4853).

The Notice of Availability of the FNOS will be available February 16, 2018 for inspection in the Federal Register at: <http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/public-inspection/index.html> and will be published in the Federal Register on February 16, 2018.

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From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-02-21T14:30:22-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Interior Announces 2017 Drone Mission Report
Received: 2018-02-21T14:31:14-05:00



Date: February 21, 2018
Contacts: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov
genevieve_giaccardo@ios.doi.gov

Interior Announces 2017 Drone Mission Report

Drone Fleet Supports Modern Approach to Managing Wildfire and Natural Resources on Public Lands

BOISE, Idaho – With a fleet of 312 unmanned aircraft, the Department of the Interior’s (DOI) [Office of Aviation Services](#) flew nearly 5,000 missions in 2017 to support everything from fighting wildfires to monitoring dams and spillways and mapping wildlife. The accomplishments of its unmanned aerial systems (UAS), or drone program, can be found in a [report](#) announced today by DOI that summarizes flights made by more than 200 certified pilots in 32 states nationwide.

[Drone flights to support natural resource management](#) across DOI, including support to firefighters suppressing wildfires, increased 82 percent from 2016 to 2017. The report breaks down the flights for more than 1,000 projects by agency, geographic area, and missions for wildfire and non-wildfire purposes.

“Interior is committed to preventing the spread of catastrophic wildfires through smarter and more aggressive practices and tactics,” **said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke**. “I had the opportunity to join our wildfire professionals last year and was able to test some of the technology that is now being used. After seeing the capabilities, I know it will continue to make a big difference in firefighting. The UAS program is a perfect example of leveraging technology to fight fires in safer and more efficient ways to ensure we are protecting the men and women on the fire line, members of the public, and local communities. Coupled with more aggressive fuels management, this technology will help prevent and control catastrophic wildfires.”

This past fire season, DOI conducted 707 drone missions on 71 individual wildfires. Drones

were used by firefighters to gain a tactical advantage on wildfires by allowing them to improve their surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities. The data and information gathered during these flights was used to support strategic planning for fighting wildfires. These advancements support the safety of our firefighters and the public through the detection of hotspots, improved mapping, and advanced monitoring of wildfires.

“The Department of the Interior has worked hard to build a UAS program that is a leader in non-Department of Defense applications,” **said Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Safety, Resource Protection, and Emergency Services Harry Humbert.** “This technology opens limitless possibilities for resource managers. The Department is proud of the collaboration that uses technology to support wildland fire and natural resource management more safely and more efficiently than ever before.”

The program started flying missions in 2010 with 208 flights. The aircraft are fitted with video cameras, infrared heat sensors, and other equipment that instantly deliver high resolution images. The DOI unmanned fleet includes 3DR Solo Quadcopters and Pulse Vapor 55TM Helicopters. The newest addition, a Hybrid VTOL Fixed-Wing, joins the fleet in early 2018.

Over the past seven years, DOI has seen drones accomplish missions faster and cheaper than traditional aviation.

“We’ve helped DOI programs accomplish their goals for an average of one-tenth of the cost in one-seventh the time of traditional means,” **said Jeff Rupert, Acting Director of the Office of Wildland Fire.** “Adding drone support to fire suppression efforts could dramatically reduce the size and cost of wildfires, potentially saving millions of dollars and hundreds of thousands of acres with triple the hours of critical aviation support.”

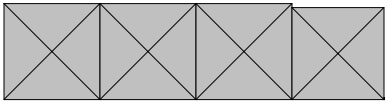
Mark Bathrick, Director of the Office of Aviation Services, sees the increasing use of drones as a chance to improve safety and efficiency of land and resource management. “We are always looking for ways to improve safety,” **said Bathrick.** “Aviation accidents have been the leading cause of fatalities among field biologists. Increasing the use of UAS or drones can increase safety for certain missions. Drones can also instantly deliver high quality data for a fraction of the cost of traditional flights.”

The next stage of the Department’s UAS program starts soon with the testing of a new class of drones to assist in fire suppression and fuels management. Scheduled for field trials later this spring, the new drones could assist firefighters with prescribed fires and with suppressing operations, especially during times when traditional firefighting aircraft can’t fly due to smoky conditions.

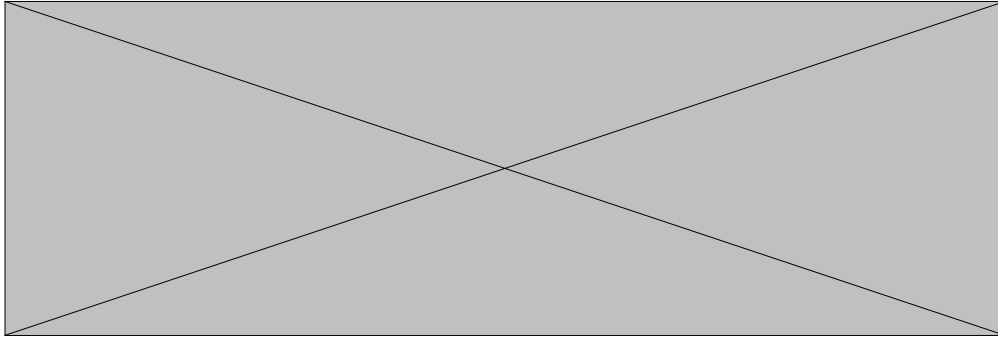
Beginning in 2016, the DOI provided wildfire location data to private drone operators to prevent interference with firefighting operations. With system updates in 2017 the public now has access to location data for fires reported by DOI and the U.S. Forest Service within the last eight days in Alaska, Texas, Wyoming, North Dakota, and California via the [GeoPlatform ArcGIS Online](#).

More than 4,200 of the DOI drone flights provided broad support to DOI lands and resources. Drone aircraft fitted with wide ranging sensors helped with inspection of dams and wells, wildlife surveys, monitoring of illegal dumping, and land mapping.

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From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-02-24T00:03:32-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke announces \$60 million cooperative agreement to promote fishing and boating and \$14 million in Boating Infrastructure Grants
Received: 2018-02-24T00:04:34-05:00



Date: February 23, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke announces \$60 million cooperative agreement to promote fishing and boating and \$14 million in Boating Infrastructure Grants

Funds come from taxes on fishing equipment and boating fuel

WASHINGTON – U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke today announced a \$60 million cooperative agreement with the [Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation](#) (RBFF) to help retain and recruit recreational anglers and boaters of all ages. Zinke is also announcing \$14 million in [Boating Infrastructure Grants](#) (BIG), which support water-related outdoor recreation and tourism by improving facilities for large transient recreational boats across the country.

The Secretary made the announcement prior to attending the “Saluting the Nation’s Governors as Champions of the Great Outdoors” event, which was hosted by The Outdoor Recreation Roundtable and The Great Outdoors Month® Council.

“Outdoor recreation is a key part of our American heritage, and boating and fishing in particular are how many Americans enjoy our public waters,” **said Secretary Zinke**. “The new cooperative agreement with RBFF is going to make sure we are reaching new anglers and boaters from all ages to get out on the water. The BIG grants help ensure that those new recreationists, as well as those who have enjoyed these activities for years, experience improved access to fishing opportunities with safer and more user-friendly recreational boating facilities.”

The five-year, \$12-million-per-year RBFF agreement will allow the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and RBFF to work together to bolster angler and boater numbers while

engaging outdoor enthusiasts in natural resource stewardship. The USFWS BIG program provides funding through excise and other taxes on certain fishing equipment and boating fuel to support dedicated boat tie-up facilities and associated amenities to help Americans enjoy the nation's waters.

“The Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, in partnership with the Secretary of the Interior, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, state natural resource agencies, and industry stakeholders has increased fishing participation by nearly 20 percent over the past 10 years,” **said Glenn Hughes, American Sportfishing Association’s (ASA) Vice President, Industry Relations.** “ASA is very pleased that RBFF’s grant was renewed for another five years, ensuring that there are a many programs and campaigns to recruit, retain and reactivate anglers.”

“The role of RBFF and the work they do helping Americans get on the water, which in turn supports the conservation and restoration of our nation’s aquatic resources, has an incredibly positive and lasting impact on the recreational boating and fishing industries,” **said Thom Dammrich, President of the National Marine Manufacturers Association.** “We applaud the Department of the Interior for recognizing RBFF’s significant contribution to outdoor recreation, and we look forward to continuing to support their efforts on behalf of the 142 million Americans who go boating each year.”

BIG Program

Nearly \$10 million will be awarded competitively for 10 projects in seven states under the BIG Tier II subprogram. The Service will also release \$4 million to fund 33 projects in 23 states, commonwealths and territories under the BIG Tier I subprogram. States and their partners will provide more than \$16 million in non-federal matching funds toward these projects. These grants are awarded on an annual basis. A full list of projects and funding can be found [here](#).

Funding for the BIG program comes from the [Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund](#). Since its inception in 2000, the BIG program has awarded \$194 million to projects for large transient recreational boats, including the construction of more than 5,000 berths for boaters across most states and U.S. territories.

BIG funds support a wide variety of infrastructure features that add to the safety and enjoyment of America’s waters. These features include restrooms, bulkheads, day docks, dinghy docks, transient slips, mooring buoys, floating docks and fixed piers, dockside water supplies, marine fueling stations, and navigational aids such as channel markers.

RBFF Agreement

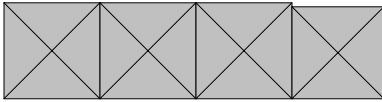
Like the BIG program, this agreement is funded through the Sport Fishing and Boating Trust Fund. In FY 2017, this trust fund provided \$349.4 million in sport fish restoration funds to states, insular areas and the District of Columbia to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, their habitats, sport fishing and recreational boating opportunities.

RBFF was selected as the grant recipient due to its extensive experience and proven success in marketing, outreach and education to increase angling and boating in the United States. Since its inception in 1998, RBFF has spearheaded innovative national outreach and education programs

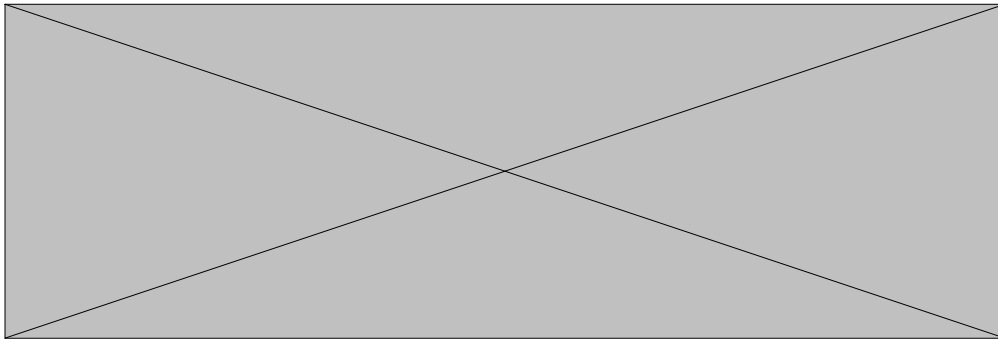
to promote fishing and boating and to educate the public on its conservation benefits.

RBFF's work has had impact on many levels. For example, RBFF launched its 60 in 60 campaign in 2016, which seeks to reach 60 million anglers in 60 months. The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, which represents all 50 states, several federal agencies, and industry, has embraced this campaign and is working with RBFF to reach this ambitious goal. In addition, First Catch Centers are being piloted to bring angling skills to new participants. Several of these will be on Department of the Interior lands in Pennsylvania and Texas (including at the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge, Laguna Atacosa National Wildlife Refuge, and Inks Dam National Fish Hatchery).

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-02-24T14:51:00-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Interior Provides More Than \$300 Million in Conservation Funding for States & Tribes to Reclaim & Repurpose Abandoned Coal Mines
Received: 2018-02-24T14:51:43-05:00



Date: February 24, 2018
Contacts: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Interior Provides More Than \$300 Million in Conservation Funding for States & Tribes to Reclaim & Repurpose Abandoned Coal Mines

WASHINGTON – The Department of the Interior’s [Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement](#) (OSMRE) today announced the availability of the Fiscal Year 2018 [Abandoned Mine Land \(AML\) Reclamation grants](#), which will provide \$300.7 million to states and tribes to reclaim abandoned coal mines.

“Restoring the usability of abandoned mine lands is an example of the Department of the Interior’s multiple-use mission of conservation in action. Interior will continue helping states and tribes responsibly develop America’s energy resources and address legacy problems related to 200 years of mining,” **said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke**. “AML grants keep Americans working and making a difference in their communities. This money will be used to fix highwalls, stabilize land above underground mines, and repair impaired waters, among other things. AML reclamation makes life better in our Nation’s coal communities.”

Approximately \$120 million of the increase from FY 2017 is the result of a phase-in period for states and tribes to receive certified in lieu funds that were withheld under the [Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act](#) (SMCRA) between FY 2009 and FY 2011.

Those states and tribes that have certified that they have completed their abandoned mine land

reclamation obligations will receive \$61 million dollars in FY 2018 and FY 2019, in addition to the certified in lieu funds those states and tribes otherwise receive each year from the U.S. Treasury. Uncertified states will also receive an increase of the same amount in those years. A small portion of the increase in AML funding is attributed to an upturn in U.S. coal production. The total amount available for distribution was reduced by the mandated sequestration amount of 6.6 percent that was applied across the board.

OSMRE provides AML grants to the 28 coal-producing states and tribes according to a congressionally mandated formula based on their past and current coal production. Each year, after the distribution is announced, eligible states and tribes apply for annual reclamation grants to access money in their allocations. After OSMRE has evaluated and verified the requests, the bureau will make the award amounts available.

Under the AML program, OSMRE has distributed more than \$5 billion in grants to states and tribes from the Abandoned Mine Land Fund. Over the past 40 years, the AML program has directly contributed to closing more than 43,000 abandoned underground mine shafts and openings; eliminating nearly 1,000 miles of highwalls; and restoring over 35,000 acres of streams and land.

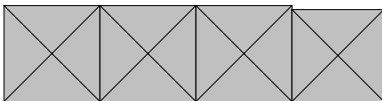
The FY 2018 AML Reclamation funding available to states and tribes is as follows:

State/Tribe	Amount Allocated
Alabama	5,268,273
Alaska	2,802,000
Arkansas	2,802,000
Colorado	3,255,110
Illinois	19,022,872
Indiana	8,113,445
Iowa	2,802,000
Kansas	2,802,000
Kentucky	19,042,090
Louisiana	210,633
Maryland	2,802,000
Mississippi	118,095
Missouri	2,802,000
Montana	7,552,769
New Mexico	2,802,000
North Dakota	2,802,000
Ohio	10,759,651
Oklahoma	2,802,000
Pennsylvania	55,657,898
Tennessee	2,802,000
Texas	2,787,150
Utah	2,802,000

Virginia	5,835,711
West Virginia	36,274,249
Wyoming	91,340,088
Crow Tribe	1,160,946
Hopi Tribe	551,961
Navajo Nation	2,955,996
TOTAL	\$300,728,939

To watch videos featuring award-winning AML projects, please visit [OSMRE's YouTube Channel](#).

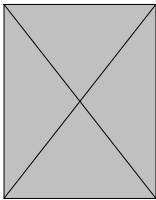
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From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-02-28T14:31:00-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: National Park System Sees More Than 330 Million Recreation Visits
Received: 2018-02-28T14:39:04-05:00
[47%20Visitors%20Watching%20Eclipse_small.jpg](#)

No one loves our National Parks more than Secretary Zinke. You can love them just as much, but not more than our Secretary...

And the following shows how much Americans love their parks!



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Office of
Communications
[1849 C Street NW](#)
[Washington, DC](#)
[20240](#)

202-208-6843 phone
www.nps.gov

National Park Service News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: February 28, 2018

Contact: newsmedia@nps.gov

National Park System Sees More Than 330 Million Recreation Visits

Bureau Releases Top 10 Lists and other Highlights

WASHINGTON – The National Park Service (NPS) today announced 330,882,751 recreation visits in 2017 – almost identical to the record-setting 330,971,689 recreation visits in 2016. While numbers were steady, visitors actually spent more time in parks during their 2017 visits compared to 2016.

Increased attendance at parks, 1.5 billion visits in the last five years, also means aging park facilities are incurring further wear and tear. President Trump has proposed legislation to establish a Public Lands Infrastructure Fund that would help address the \$11.6 billion maintenance backlog in the National Park System. The fund would take new revenue from federal energy leasing and development and provide up to \$18 billion to help pay for repairs and improvements in national parks, national wildlife refuges and Bureau of Indian Education funded schools.

"Our National Parks are being loved to death," said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke. "As

visitor rates continue at a high level, we must prioritize much-needed deferred maintenance including aging facilities, roads and other critical infrastructure. President Trump's proposal to establish a Public Lands Infrastructure Fund is a step in the right direction. This is not a Republican or Democrat issue, this is an American issue, and the President and I remain ready to work with anyone in Congress who is willing to get the job done.”

National Park System 2017 visitation highlights include:

- More than 1.44 billion recreation hours in 2017, an increase of 19 million hours over 2016
- Most – 385 of 417 parks in the National Park System – count park visitors
- 61 of the 385 reporting parks set new visitation records (about 16 percent of reporting parks)
- 42 parks broke a record they set in 2016
- 3 parks had more than 10 million recreation visits – Blue Ridge Parkway, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and Great Smoky Mountains National Park
- 10 parks had more than 5 million recreation visits
- 81 parks had more than 1 million recreation visits – one more million-visitor park than 2016
- Half of national park visitation occurred in 27 parks
- The total solar eclipse last August brought visitors in record numbers to several parks

Parks that passed notable recreational visit milestones for the first time:

- Grand Canyon National Park 6 million
- Zion National Park 4.5 million
- Glen Canyon National Recreation Area 4 million
- Boston National Historical Park 3 million
- Glacier National Park 3 million
- Bryce Canyon National Park 2.5 million
- Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park 2.5 million
- Big Bend National Park 400,000
- Great Sand Dunes National Park & Preserve 400,000
- Mississippi National Recreation and River Area 400,000
- Allegheny Portage Railroad National Historic Site 200,000
- Congaree National Park 150,000
- Great Basin National Park 150,000
- Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site 150,000
- Monocacy National Battlefield 100,000
- Waco Mammoth National Monument 100,000
- Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument 75,000
- Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park 75,000
- James A. Garfield National Historic Site 50,000
- National Park of American Samoa 50,000
- Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site 50,000
- Agate Fossil Beds National Monument 30,000
- Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument 30,000
- Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve 30,000

Top 10 Visitation National Park System

Park	Recreation Visits	Deferred Maintenance
	16,093,765	

Blue Ridge Parkway		\$186,619,608
Golden Gate National Recreation Area	14,981,897	\$325,814,011
Great Smoky Mountains National Park	11,388,893	\$64,049,392
Gateway National Recreation Area	9,190,610	\$788,419,471
Lincoln Memorial	7,956,117	\$33,868,238
Lake Mead National Recreation Area	7,882,339	\$205,540,564
George Washington Memorial Parkway	7,562,793	\$233,441,316
Natchez Trace Parkway	6,326,062	\$10,656,651

Grand Canyon National Park	6,254,238	\$329,437,056
Vietnam Veterans Memorial	5,072,589	\$625,250

Top 10 Visitation National Parks

Park	Recreation Visits	Deferred Maintenance
Great Smoky Mountains National Park	11,388,893	\$64,049,392
Grand Canyon National Park	6,254,238	\$329,437,056
Zion National Park	4,504,812	\$65,291,893
Rocky Mountain National Park	4,437,215	\$84,234,245
Yosemite National Park	4,336,890	\$582,670,827

Yellowstone National Park	4,116,524	\$515,808,008
Acadia National Park	3,509,271	\$59,858,099
Olympic National Park	3,401,996	\$120,719,515
Grand Teton National Park	3,317,000	\$178,630,525
Glacier National Park	3,305,512	\$153,838,276

For an in depth look at 2017 visitation figures please visit the [NPS Social Science](#) web site.

Editor's Note: Photo caption: More than 10,000 people descended on Homestead National Monument of America near Beatrice, Nebraska, for the total solar eclipse on August 20, 2017. Homestead set an all-time visitation record for the day, the month and the year. NPS Photo by Alison Tagert-Barone.

www.nps.gov

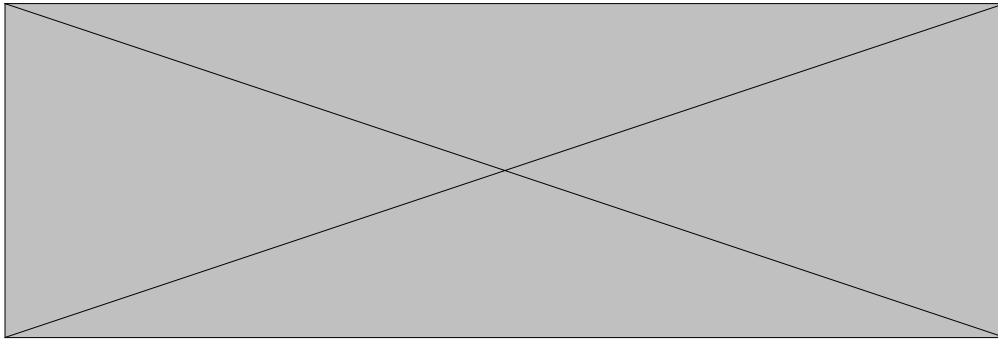
About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees who care for America's 417 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Visit us at <http://www.nps.gov>, on Facebook www.facebook.com/nationalparkservice, Twitter www.twitter.com/natlparkservice, and YouTube

www.youtube.com/nationalparkservice.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-02-28T18:11:49-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Interior Releases Report on Fight Against Invasive Mussels
Received: 2018-02-28T18:20:22-05:00



Date: February 28, 2018
Contacts: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Interior Releases Report on Fight Against Invasive Mussels

Showcases Initiatives to Safeguard Western Waters and Hydroelectric Facilities

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of the Interior today released a [report](#) highlighting the progress made in the fight against invasive zebra and quagga mussels, which can impair the delivery of water and power, diminish boating and fishing, and devastate ecosystem health.

The report comes after Secretary Ryan Zinke [announced in June](#) a set of initiatives to protect western ecosystems and hydroelectric facilities from the destructive species through continued collaboration with western governors as well as federal, state, and tribal agencies.

“I am pleased to share progress made on honoring those commitments,” said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke. “There is more work to do, and Interior is committed to continuing our efforts. With the busy boating season approaching, it is imperative that we are vigilant in taking measures to prevent the spread of invasive mussels and other aquatic invasive species.”

In Fiscal Year 2017, Interior spent \$8.6 million to address invasive mussels nationwide. This includes an additional \$1 million for the Bureau of Reclamation to establish watercraft decontamination stations, provide educational materials, and continue monitoring efforts.

Interior is currently working on more than four dozen actions to address invasive mussels including preventing the spread of the species to uninfested waters, such as those in the Columbia River Basin in the Pacific Northwest, and containing and controlling them where they are established, such as in Lake Powell and the Lower Colorado River region.

Some highlights since June include:

- Convening federal, state, tribal, and nongovernmental groups to identify options to strengthen watercraft inspection and decontamination programs at infested waters, such as at Lake Havasu as well as Lake Mead, where the Bureau of Reclamation committed to spending another \$150,000 this year to bolster efforts.
- In the Pacific Northwest, the U.S. Geological Survey, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, and Columbia River Basin partners are mobilizing to improve regional coordination of monitoring efforts to ensure that they are strategic and effective.
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, and Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission are leading planning efforts to expedite Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultations to ensure a quick response if invasive mussels are detected.
- The Bureau of Reclamation launched a prize competition seeking innovation solutions to eradicate invasive mussels from large reservoirs, lakes, and rivers in a cost effective and environmentally sound manner.

This work builds on efforts and effective state-federal-tribal partnerships and initiatives in process for decades. Interior and WGA staff have communicated regularly on this initiative since its inception in the spring of 2017.

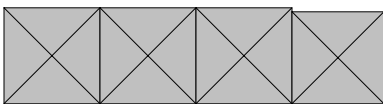
"Western Governors remain committed to the fight against invasive species on Western lands, including the threat that invasive mussels pose to Western waterbodies," said the Western Governors' Association (WGA). "Addressing a threat of this magnitude requires leadership, innovation, and coordination at all levels of government."

The Department requested \$11.9 million in Fiscal Year 2018, including an additional \$3.4 million for the Bureau of Reclamation to expand on these and other efforts to prevent, contain, and control invasive mussels. Approximately \$3.1 million is in the process of being released under the continuing resolution to support federal, state, and tribal activities such as the purchase and operation of watercraft inspection and decontamination stations in the Lower Colorado River basin, development of facility vulnerability assessments to determine risk for critical infrastructure in the Columbia River Basin, and increasing capacity for the Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribe at Flathead Lake for their Aquatic Invasive Species program.

First introduced to the Great Lakes in the 1980s, zebra and quagga mussels spread outward via recreational watercraft being transported to other regions of the country. Infestations clog power plant, industrial, and public water supply intakes and pipes, dramatically change aquatic ecosystems, and require substantial investments to control. They are among the many invasive species causing economic and ecological and harm to human health across the United States.

To help raise awareness about these and other invasive species, events are planned in Washington, D.C. and across the country this week during National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW). More information about NISAW is available [here](#).

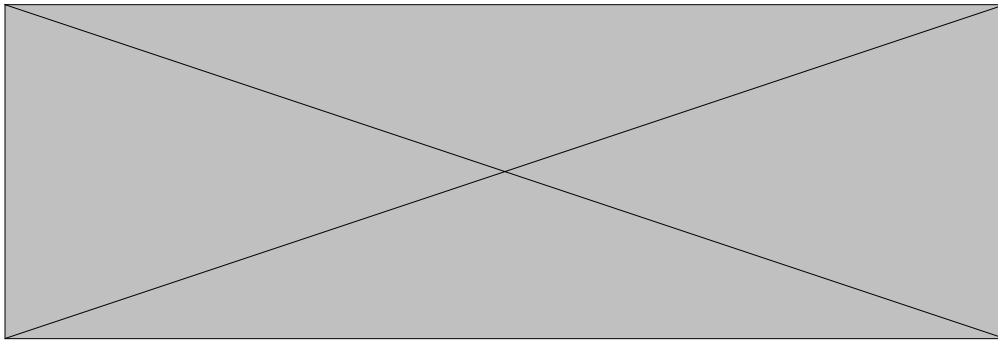
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From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-03-06T16:22:54-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Moves Forward to Improve Safety Offshore
Received: 2018-03-06T16:24:28-05:00
[BSEE Safety Improvement Initiatives.pdf](#)

Attached is more information regarding the 6 BSEE Safety Improvement Initiatives announced below....

Making American Energy Safe and Amazing again...



Date: March 6, 2018
Contacts: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Moves Forward to Improve Safety Offshore

HOUSTON – U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke today announced a series of new initiatives to strengthen the federal offshore oil and gas inspection program. Zinke highlighted a risk-based inspection element and an increase in the amount of time allotted for physical inspection of offshore facilities as two of six initiatives that the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) will institute before mid-2018. Zinke's announcement at the 2018 CERAWeek conference coincides with the U.S. offshore's highest oil production year on record, totaling 629 million barrels during 2017.

“One of the pillars to responsible energy development is ensuring it's done safely,” **Secretary Zinke told the CERA attendees.** “As part of the Trump administration's push for safety in energy development, we are working hard to do our job smarter and ensure industry is exploring and producing safely.”

Starting this month, BSEE inspectors are conducting risk-based inspections as part of the bureau's overall inspection strategy. This specialized inspection protocol uses analysis of continuous trend data to focus on performance issues of critical equipment or operations.

A second initiative will ensure that the inspector work process is more effective, enabling inspectors to spend more time conducting physical inspections while offshore. This effort will

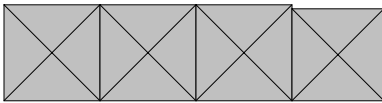
also reduce costs by changing inspector work schedules to match contracted helicopter assets, and decreases safety risks for inspectors by reducing flight time.

Four other initiatives include: increasing BSEE's engagement with industry, identifying the Best Available and Safest Technology requirements for critical offshore equipment, identifying gaps between advancing technologies and regulations, and researching the potential for third-party certification of BSEE's inspection program by the International Standards Organization.

BSEE Director Scott Angelle explained, "I want BSEE's programs and processes to be the best in the world, and I'm not afraid to subject them to scrutiny to determine where improvements are needed."

Since his arrival in 2017, Angelle has called for BSEE to embrace a process of change management. "The six initiatives we are announcing today are an important set of steps that will keep pace with the increased offshore oil gas and production, ensure safety, and protect the environment," **Angelle stated.** "They will also help BSEE become a more efficient agency, something the American taxpayers expect and deserve."

###



BSEE launches first ever risk based inspection program using real time trend data to achieve safety improvements.

- Under the former Administration, BSEE had a start and stop and ultimately aborted risk based program; criticized by two external oversight organizations for not being able to get it across the finish line.
- This month, 40 facilities will undergo a risk based inspection within a two day period. This follows a very successful pilot program by this administration and our new risk based inspection program will serve to augment our current prescriptive based inspection program and will combine to improve safety on the OCS.
- Risk-based inspections allow BSEE Engineers and Inspectors to act quickly on current trends in offshore operations and demanding improved safety performance to the offshore operators' attention opportunities for safety improvement.

Effective April 1, BSEE drastically increases physical inspection time on offshore oil and gas facilities while achieving cost-savings for the taxpayers and reducing safety risks to inspectors.

- BSEE drastically increases the time of offshore physical inspections and gains a cost- savings of contracted helicopter services of \$20 million over four years through revamping of workforce schedules and embracing technology to access records resulting in a safer Outer Continental Shelf achieved in a smarter and less expensive way.

BSEE re-invigorates critical safety reporting system through engagement with industry.

- BSEE inherited a Safe Outer Continental Shelf (SafeOCS) Voluntary reporting program from the last Administration that had 3% participation from industry.
- In the first year under new leadership, participation more than doubled to 8% of all offshore operators. It should be noted these participating operators are responsible for 63% of the oil production from the Outer Continental Shelf.
- BSEE has developed a comprehensive strategy to engage industry leadership with a goal of substantially increasing participation by the end of 2018.

BSEE identifies every critical offshore component subject to Best Available Safe Technology (BAST) regulations.

- BSEE is implementing a system to have critical safety components, subject to BAST definition, identified, audited and published annually with a concurrent review of regulations for compliance with BAST goals.
- Hereto before, the previous Administration has not identified, audited or published therefore creating uncertainty of compliance with BAST goals.

BSEE puts in place infrastructure to continuously identify gaps between advancing technology and regulations.

- In the aftermath of the *Deepwater Horizon* incident, the National Commission determined that gaps existed between risk of Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) production and exploration activities and the regulations to mitigate those risks.
- The previous administration failed to stand up an infrastructure whose focus would be to continuously identify the risk of changing OCS activity so as to make certain existing regulations, inspections, and procedures would remain current with said risk. This Administration is changing that!
- Having this allows BSEE to align regulations with new technology.

For the first time ever, BSEE seeks to obtain third-party certification of its inspection program from the world's most distinguished standards organization, the International Standards Organization (ISO)

- BSEE is in the early stages of planning. Hopefully signing contract by summer of 2018 to chart a path forward on obtaining the certification.

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-03-07T18:06:39-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Partners with Congress on Bipartisan Bill to Fix Our National Parks
Received: 2018-03-07T18:07:55-05:00

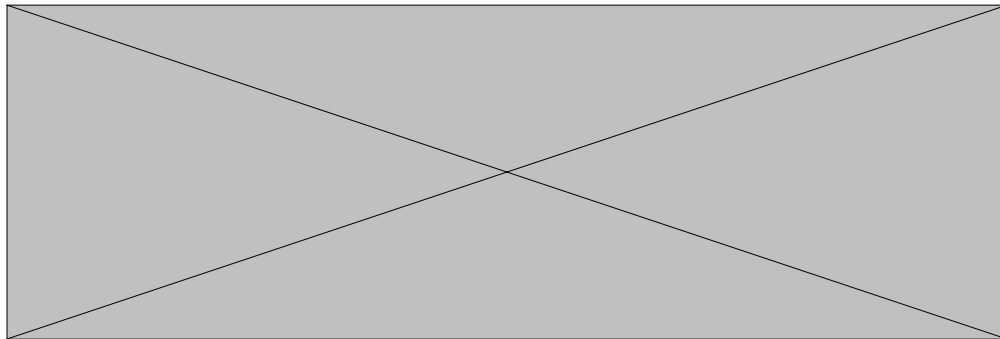
Esteemed Colleagues,

For those at The Latino Coalition today, this is just one part of our DOI portfolio which will create jobs across America...

The National Park Service estimates that its maintenance and repair backlog exceeds \$11.6 billion = **Jobs, Jobs, and Jobs for ALL Americans**

A working America is a great America,

Jason Funes
Special Assistant
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5541



Date: March 7, 2018
Contacts: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Partners with Congress on Bipartisan Bill to Fix Our National Parks

*Marks an important component of President Trump's Infrastructure Framework for
Rebuilding America's Infrastructure*

WASHINGTON – Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke joined U.S. Senators Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Angus King (I-ME), Rep. Mike Simpson (R-ID), Rep. Kurt Schrader (D-OR) and others to introduce a bipartisan bill to rebuild America's National Parks.

The proposed bill would use up to \$18 billion in revenue derived from energy produced on federal lands and waters to establish a special fund within the Treasury specifically for “National Park Restoration”. The bill follows the blueprint laid out in Secretary Zinke and President Trump's budget proposal, the Public Lands Infrastructure Fund. The Alexander/King bill's cosponsors are: Senators Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), Martin Heinrich (D-NM), Steve Daines (R-MT), Cory Gardner (R-CO), and Thom Tillis (R-NC). This bill fulfills one of the priorities laid out in President Trump’s [legislative framework for rebuilding America’s infrastructure](#).

"Infrastructure is an investment, not merely an expense. And every dollar we put in to rebuilding our parks, will help bolster the gateway communities that rely on park visitation for economic vitality. Since the early days of my confirmation, I've been talking with members of the House and Senate about how we can use energy revenue to rebuild and revitalize our parks and communities," **said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke**. "Infrastructure is also about access for all Americans. Not all visitors to our parks have the ability to hike with a 30-pound pack and camp in the wilderness miles away from utilities. In order for families with young kids, elderly grandparents, or persons with disabilities to enjoy the parks, we need to rebuild basic infrastructure like roads, trails, lodges, restrooms and visitors centers. This bill is the largest investment in National Parks in our nation's history. This is not a republican or democrat issue, this is an American issue, and I think that the bipartisan body of lawmakers who put this bill forward is proof."

“This legislation will help address the over \$11 billion maintenance backlog at our national parks, including the \$215 million backlog of projects in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park,” **Senator Alexander said**. “The Great Smoky Mountains National Park is one of America’s greatest treasures – and it has a tremendous economic impact in East Tennessee, attracting nearly twice the visitors of any other national park. Addressing the maintenance backlog will help attract even more visitors and create more jobs for Tennesseans. We must continue to work together to find solutions to the many challenges facing our public lands, and this legislation takes an important step toward doing that.”

“Montanans are blessed to have America’s most beautiful national parks right outside our front doors,” **said Senator Daines**. “These critical economic drivers must be maintained and protected so that our outdoor economy can continue to grow and our parks remain accessible to all Montanans. This bipartisan bill is a commonsense step forward to ensure that the challenges facing our national parks are finally addressed.”

“For more than a century, our national parks have inspired and amazed countless visitors,” **said Senator King**. “Unfortunately, these parks don’t take care of themselves – they need maintenance to ensure that future generations can experience the same wonder that so many Americans already have. This bill is a practical step to help clear the existing maintenance backlog, and protect these treasured lands for years to come.”

“As someone who loves public lands and our National Parks, I am thrilled to be standing here today with Secretary Zinke, Senator Alexander, Senator King, and Congressman Schrader to propose a solution to fixing the backlog maintenance,” **said Congressman Mike Simpson**. “Growing up in Yellowstone’s backyard, it is important that we pay it forward to future visitors that deserve the same quality experience as past generations. There are many people who

deserve credit for bringing this issue to the forefront and I look forward to working with them to advance legislation that fixes our Parks.”

“Oregonians have a genuine appreciation for the outdoors and our National Parks and recreation areas,” **said Representative Schrader**. “Our ability to enjoy and appreciate that natural beauty is limited when upkeep on our federal lands isn’t sufficiently funded allowing critical maintenance to fall by the wayside. Not only does that impact our enjoyment of the land, but it poses serious risks to the protection of these areas and hurts our communities that rely on the economic benefit from visitors. Currently, our national parks are in dire need of maintenance with a more than ten billion dollar backlog. Our bill provides an innovative solution by creating the National Park Restoration Fund which will provide mandatory funding from unutilized resources already available to us, to bring that backlog down and ensure our National Park System is well and safely kept for generations to come.”

The National Park Service estimates that its maintenance and repair backlog exceeds \$11.6 billion. In 2017, 330 million people visited the 417 NPS sites across the country. The NPS completed over \$650 million in maintenance and repair work in FY 2017, but aging facilities, high visitation, and resource constraints have kept the maintenance backlog between \$11 billion and \$12 billion since 2010.

Some examples of maintenance projects include:

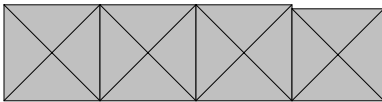
- **Everglades National Park (Florida)** - Showers, campgrounds and lodges that were destroyed during a hurricane more than a decade ago remain broken. Total Everglades maintenance backlog cost, more than \$90 million.
- **Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore (Indiana)** - Earlier this month, an observation deck overlooking Lake Michigan crumbled and fell to the ground after years of erosion. Total Indiana Dunes maintenance backlog cost, more than \$26 million.
- **Grand Canyon National Park (Arizona)** - A pipeline, and the only infrastructure to deliver water to the South Rim Village of 19,634 people daily for drinking, cooking and firefighting, breaks several times a year putting the well-being of the community including park lodges, visitor centers, homes, and Grand Canyon hikers at risk. Total Grand Canyon maintenance backlog cost, more than \$329 million.
- **Statue of Liberty National Monument (NY/NJ)** - \$34.45 million is needed to stabilize the Ellis Island Seawall, which protects Ellis Island from erosion of wave action. \$3.77 million is also needed to rehabilitate the Fire-Life-Safety System in the Main Immigration Building, where 2.2 million annual visitors start and end their visit to the island. Total Statue of Liberty National Monument maintenance backlog cost, more than \$166 million.

While National Parks have enjoyed historic visitation over the past few years, many Americans have never been to a NPS site and are unfamiliar with what infrastructure they hold. Here's a quick look at National Park Service infrastructure across the board:

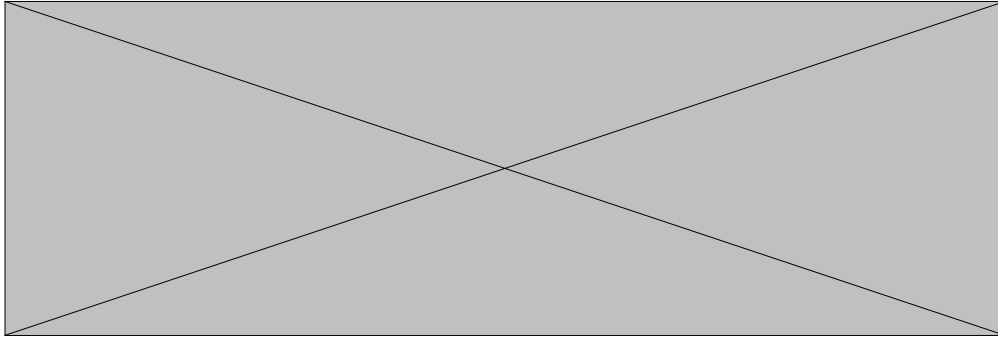
- More than 5,500 miles of paved roads
- More than 1,700 bridges and tunnels

- More than 17,000 miles of trails
- More than 1,300 campgrounds
- More than 24,000 buildings including more than 500 visitor centers, 425 park lodges and hotel buildings, 3,870 housing units and more than 3,700 bathrooms
- More than 1,000 miles of water pipelines
- More than 1,500 water systems
- More than 1,800 wastewater systems
- More than 500 electrical systems

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-03-12T19:44:50-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Interior and National Park Service Announce \$12.6 Million in Grants to Preserve African American Civil Rights History
Received: 2018-03-12T19:46:18-04:00



Date: March 12, 2018
Contacts: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Interior and National Park Service Announce \$12.6 Million in Grants to Preserve African American Civil Rights History

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of the Interior and the National Park Service today announced \$12.6 million in grants for 51 projects in 24 states that preserve sites and highlight stories related to the African American struggle for equality in the 20th century.

"An integral part of the Interior and National Park Service mission is to help preserve and tell America's story," **said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke**. "These grants will benefit places across the nation that help tell an essential piece of that story through the African American struggle for civil rights and equality."

"Through the work and engagement of public and private partners, these grants will preserve a defining part of our nation's diverse history," **National Park Service Deputy Director Dan Smith said**. "By working with local communities to preserve these historic places and stories, we will help tell a more complete narrative of the African American experience in the pursuit of civil rights."

Projects receiving grants this year include those that will preserve resources like a baseball stadium used by the Negro National League in Paterson, New Jersey; the home of civil rights activist Mary Church Terrell in Washington, D.C.; and the last standing African American officers' club at Fort Huachuca, Arizona. Grant projects also include statewide surveys to identify lesser-known civil rights sites, planning exhibits and interpretive trails, and collecting oral histories.

Congress appropriated funding for the African American Civil Rights Grants Program in 2016 through the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF). The HPF uses revenue from federal oil leases on the Outer Continental Shelf, providing assistance for a broad range of preservation projects without expending tax dollars. For the second year of this grants program, Congress increased funding from \$8 million to \$13 million in 2017.

Grant-supported projects include surveys and documentation, interpretation and education, oral histories, architectural services, historic structure reports, planning, and physical preservation.

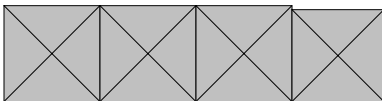
Projects receiving an African American Civil Rights grants include:

State	Project	Grantee	Amount
Alabama	The Restoration of Mount Zion A.M.E. Zion Church Memorial Annex	Mount Zion Center Foundation, Inc.	\$500,000
Alabama	Restoration and Rehabilitation of the Perry County Jailhouse	Perry County Commission	\$500,000
Alabama	Preservation, Repair and Restoration of the Historic Sixteenth Street Baptist Church: Phase III	Sixteenth Street Baptist Church	\$500,000
Alabama	Moore Building Master Plan and Phase I Rehabilitation	Alabama Historical Commission	\$365,720
Alabama	Second Phase Continuation in the Preservation of Brown Chapel AME	Historic Brown Chapel AME Church Preservation Society, Inc.	\$300,000
Alabama	21st Century Preservation & the Next Generation of Global Activism: Archives Preservation and Digitization Project	Birmingham Civil Rights Institute	\$44,918
Alabama	Civil Rights Struggle in the Shoals	University of North Alabama	\$45,364
Alabama	Freedom Rides Museum 60th Anniversary Commemoration Exhibit Plans	Alabama Historical Commission	\$50,000
Alabama	Montgomery Alabama Civil Rights Survey/Planning/Research/Documentation	City of Montgomery	\$50,000
Arkansas	Preserving the History of Central High School	Little Rock School District	\$499,218
Arkansas	Dreamland Ballroom Public Access Project	Friends of Dreamland	\$499,668
Arizona	Mountain View Officers' Club Preservation Project	Arizona Department of Parks	\$500,000
District of Columbia	Preserving the Homes of Two Pioneers of the Civil Rights Movement: Mary Church Terrell and Walter E. Washington	Howard University	\$500,000
District of Columbia	Washington DC's 20th Century Civil Rights Movement: Researching and Documenting Historic Sites	DC Preservation League	\$50,000
Florida	Leon and Jewel Collins Museum of African	City of Cocoa	\$50,000

	American History- National Register of Historic Places Nomination		
Georgia	Preservation and Restoration of the Historic West Hunter Street Baptist Church, Phase 2	Ralph David Abernathy III Foundation, Inc.	\$490,000
Georgia	Wheat Street Baptist Church Historic Renovation	Wheat Street Towers	\$500,000
Georgia	Nominating U.S. Civil Rights Sites to the World Heritage List	Georgia State University Research Foundation, Inc.	\$50,000
Iowa	Battling for Equality: Civil Rights in Waterloo	City of Waterloo Historic Preservation Commission	\$37,500
Iowa	Iowa's African American Civil Rights Survey, Multiple Property Documentation and Nomination	State Historical Society of Iowa	\$49,966
Illinois	Preservation of the Stone Temple Baptist Church Building	City of Chicago	\$445,500
Indiana	Hoosier Civil Rights History: Development of a Virtual Museum for Engaging Indiana's Civil Rights Legacy	Ball State University	\$49,989
Kansas	St. Mark's A.M.E. Church Rehabilitation Continuation	St. Mark's A.M.E. Church of Topeka, KS Inc.	\$496,800
Kentucky	Quinn Chapel AME Church Stabilization Project	Louisville Jefferson County Metropolitan Government	\$450,000
Louisiana	Robert "Bob" Hicks House and 1906 Mill House Rehabilitation	The Robert "Bob" Hicks Foundation	\$498,632
Louisiana	Old Galilee Missionary Baptist Church, Physical Preservation	City of Shreveport	\$500,000
Louisiana	The Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) Educational Pavilion and Central City Civil Rights Corridor Project	Felicity Street Redevelopment, Inc.	\$25,000
Louisiana	Cuttin' Cane Ain't All We Do	West Baton Rouge Museum	\$50,000
Massachusetts	Preserving Clinton AME Zion Church and Interpreting the Life and Legacy of WEB Du Bois	Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area, Inc.	\$388,508
Maryland	Prince George's County Civil Rights Trail	Anacostia Trails Heritage Area, Inc.	\$45,100
Michigan	Pave the Way Project	City of Lansing	\$39,400
Michigan	Every Man's Home is his Castle	City of Detroit	\$500,000
Mississippi	Phase One Rehabilitation of the Isaiah T. Montgomery House, Mound Bayou, MS	Mississippi Heritage Trust	\$284,000
Mississippi	A Case to Save Wechsler School	The Wechsler Foundation	\$500,000
Mississippi	Restoration of Historic Old Phoenix Naval Store	Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal Plain	\$499,534
Mississippi	Marks Mule Train and MLK's Poor People's Campaign Interpretive Trail	Quitman County Mississippi Government	\$50,000
North Carolina	McKissick Soul City Civil Rights Center	County of Warren	\$32,000

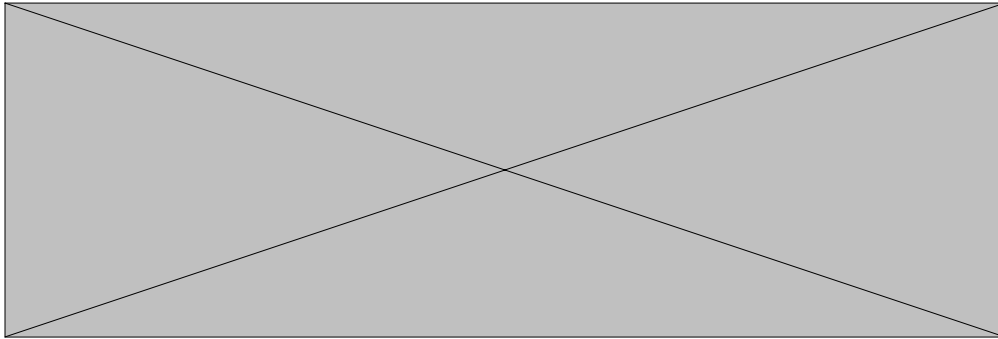
New Jersey	Hinchliffe Stadium Façade Rehabilitation Phase 2	City of Paterson	\$500,000
New Jersey	Winning Civil Rights and Political Power	Center for Education and Juvenile Justice	\$50,000
Nevada	The African American Experience in Nevada: An Historic Context	Nevada State Historic Preservation Office	\$46,032
New York	African American Civil Rights in New York State (1900-1976): Multiple Property Documentation Form and Nomination	NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation	\$49,118
South Carolina	Trustee Hall Historic Structure Report and Preservation Plan	Claflin University	\$50,000
South Carolina	Documenting and Sharing the History of Mosquito Beach and its Role in the Civil Rights Movement	Historic Charleston Foundation	\$43,084
South Carolina	Preservation and Repair of Historic Trinity United Methodist Church	Trinity Methodist Church	\$500,000
South Carolina	A Journey to Equal Education: Stories from Historic African American Communities	Charleston County Government	\$50,000
Tennessee	Memphis Heritage Trail	City of Memphis – Housing and Community Development	\$50,000
Tennessee	Clayborn Temple Interior Sanctuary Restoration	City of Memphis - Housing and Community Development	\$500,000
Tennessee	Clayborn Temple and the 1968 Memphis Sanitation Workers Strike	National Trust for Historic Preservation in the U.S.	\$20,000
Texas	Freedmen’s Town Stories	Building Community Workshop	\$50,000
Texas	Hopewell Rosenwald Community School	American Youthworks	\$247,094
Virginia	Josephine City School Roof Project	County of Clarke Virginia	\$17,885
Total			\$12,610,000

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From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-03-13T18:39:38-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Interior Announces \$18 Million of Anvil Points Funding Finally going to Colorado Communities
Received: 2018-03-13T18:40:16-04:00

Promises made and promises are being kept...



Date: March 13, 2018
Contacts: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Interior Announces \$18 Million of Anvil Points Funding Finally going to Colorado Communities

BOISE, Idaho – Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke and Rifle, Colorado, native Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt announced the Department will distribute approximately \$18 million to the State of Colorado after nearly a decade of the funds being withheld by the Federal government.

The funding comes from oil and gas lease revenues generated in Garfield, Rio Blanco, Moffat, and Mesa Counties, that were collected through 2008. The funds were collected to clean up the former Anvil Points Federal oil shale research site. The money allocated is excess funding that was never needed for cleanup purposes and was not returned to the local communities. U.S. Senators Cory Gardner (R-CO), Michael Bennet (D-CO), and Congressman Scott Tipton (R-CO) all applauded the announcement for Colorado. The Senators had been working with the Secretary and Deputy Secretary on this issue since their confirmation interviews.

“The Anvil Points energy payments are now where they belong, with the people of Colorado,” **said Secretary Zinke**. “Rural counties across the west have a unique relationship with the federal government because their economic livelihood is tied to the federal lands that surround the towns. Communities rely on the revenue the local land produces for everything from firefighting to building roads and supporting schools. This is money that belongs to the communities, and I was happy that we could deliver on this promise today.”

“The people of Colorado had to wait far too long before some common sense broke the bureaucratic stonewalling and got them their money,” **said Interior Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt**. “The Senators brought this issue to my and Secretary Zinke’s attention in the early days of our confirmation process, and after working with multiple Departments across the Federal government, we did what was right.”

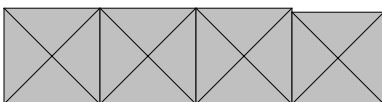
“Today’s announcement is great news for Western Colorado,” **Gardner said**. “Since his confirmation process, I’ve worked closely with Secretary Zinke urging Interior to release the funding, and I appreciate the Secretary and the department for coming through with what will be millions of dollars for these Colorado communities. This is their money – not the federal government’s, and each county can now use this funding for how they think is best for their region.”

“Colorado communities waited far too long for the government to release these revenues, and we are glad they will finally receive what is rightfully theirs,” **Bennet said**. “I’ve been working toward this outcome since arriving in the Senate in 2009. Now that Secretary Zinke said ‘the check is in the mail,’ millions of dollars can be put to use by communities on the Western Slope.”

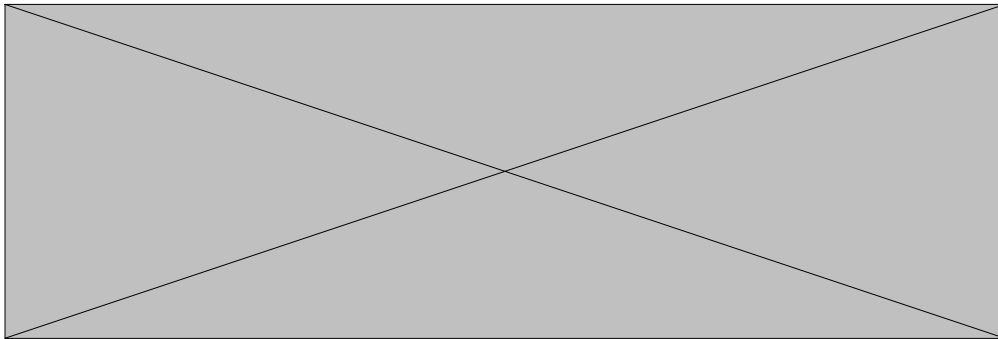
“I have worked for several years to ensure that royalty payments from the Anvil Points oil shale and research facility are returned to Northwest Colorado. Secretary Zinke’s announcement during today’s Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing signals the end to a very long process, and I could not be more thrilled,” **Tipton said**. “This money rightfully belongs to Northwest Colorado, and I am thankful for Secretary Zinke and Deputy Secretary Bernhardt’s leadership on this matter. I look forward to seeing the state disperse the funds to Garfield, Mesa, Moffat and Rio Blanco Counties, so local leaders can dedicate resources to enhancing their communities and improving the lives of all who live there.”

Secretary Zinke has prioritized improving relationships with Local and State governments. In November 2017, Secretary Zinke secured \$20 million for Oregon and in September 2017 announced \$4 million for North Carolina.

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From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-03-21T19:10:21-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Interior Announces Results of Gulf of Mexico Region-Wide Oil and Gas Lease
Received: 2018-03-21T19:10:55-04:00



Date: March 21, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Interior Announces Results of Gulf of Mexico Region-Wide Oil and Gas Lease

Sale Yields \$124.7 Million in High Bids on 815,403 Acres, Advances the President's America-First Energy Strategy

WASHINGTON – In support of President Donald J. Trump's [America-First Offshore Energy Strategy](#), Interior Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management Joe Balash today announced that region-wide Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale 250 generated \$124,763,581 in high bids for 148 tracts covering 815,403 acres in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico. A total of 33 companies participated in the lease sale, submitting \$139,122,383 in bids.

“Today’s lease sale is yet another step our nation has taken to achieve economic security and energy dominance,” **said Assistant Secretary Balash.** “Today’s results will help secure high-paying offshore jobs for rig and platform workers, support staff onshore, and related industry jobs, while generating much needed revenue to fund everything from conservation to infrastructure.”

Lease Sale 250, livestreamed from New Orleans, was the second offshore sale held under the National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program (National OCS Program) for 2017-2022. Under this program, 10 region-wide lease sales are scheduled for the Gulf, where resource potential and industry interest are high, and oil and gas infrastructure is well established. Two Gulf lease sales will be held each year and include all available blocks in the combined Western, Central, and Eastern Gulf of Mexico Planning Areas.

In January of this year, Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke announced a draft proposed program for a new national OCS program for years 2019-2024. The 60-day public comment period for the draft ended on March 9. After considering all public comments received in response, BOEM will develop and publish a proposed program for public comment later this year, followed by the proposed final program expected in 2019.

“Today’s sale is a continuation of our all-of-the-above energy strategy,” **said Vincent DeVito, Counselor to the Secretary of the Interior for Energy**, “and will result in responsible development of American energy resources.”

The 2017-2022 National OCS Program will continue to be implemented until the new National OCS Program is approved.

Lease Sale 250 included 14,474 unleased blocks, located from three to 231 miles offshore, in the Gulf’s Western, Central and Eastern planning areas in water depths ranging from nine to more than 11,115 feet (three to 3,400 meters).

Excluded from the lease sale are blocks subject to the congressional moratorium established by the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006; blocks that are adjacent to or beyond the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone in the area known as the northern portion of the Eastern Gap; and whole blocks and partial blocks within the current boundary of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary.

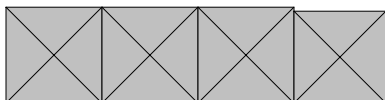
Money received from OCS leases (including high bids, rental payments and royalty payments) are directed to the U.S. Treasury, Gulf Coast states, the Land and Water Conservation Fund and Historic Preservation Fund.

Leases issued as a result of this sale will include stipulations to protect biologically sensitive resources, mitigate potential adverse effects on protected species, and avoid potential conflicts associated with oil and gas development in the region.

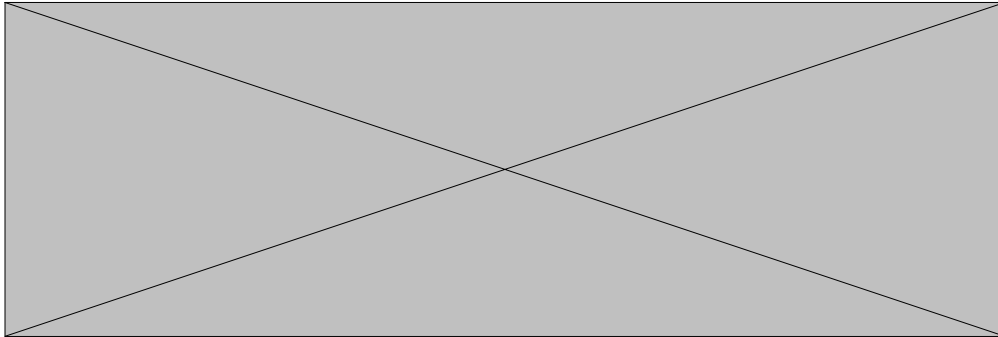
Additionally, BOEM has included appropriate fiscal terms that take into account market conditions and ensure taxpayers receive a fair return for use of the OCS. These terms include a 12.5 percent royalty rate for leases in less than 200 meters of water depth, and a royalty rate of 18.75 percent for all other leases issued under the sale, in recognition of current hydrocarbon price conditions and the marginal nature of remaining Gulf of Mexico shallow water resources.

All terms and conditions for Gulf of Mexico Region-wide Sale 250 were detailed in the Final Notice of Sale (FNOS) information package, which is available at: <http://www.boem.gov/Sale-250/>.

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-03-22T11:59:48-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Ohio to Receive \$23,356,598 in funding for Conservation and Sportsmen Access
Received: 2018-03-22T12:02:43-04:00
[IMG_1540.JPG](#)
[IMG_1576.JPG](#)
[IMG_1589.JPG](#)
[IMG_1602.JPG](#)



Date: March 21, 2018

Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Ohio to Receive \$23,356,598 in funding for Conservation and Sportsmen Access

Interior announces funds from Mosquito Lake State Park

CORTLAND, Ohio – Today, the U.S. Department of the Interior announced \$23,356,598 million in funding for Ohio from revenues generated by the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration and Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration acts. The announcement was made by Interior’s Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks Aurelia Skipwith from Mosquito Lake State Park, which offers one of the largest lakes in the Buckeye State, where she worked with biologists to collect spawning walleye for the State Fish hatchery program.

State-by-state listings of the final Fiscal Year 2018 apportionments of Wildlife Restoration Program fund can be found [here](#) and the Sport Fish Restoration Program fund [here](#). Allocations of the funds are authorized by Congress. To date, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has distributed more than \$20.2 billion in apportionments for state conservation and recreation projects.

“Programs like the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson grants are a perfect example of the Department of the Interior being a good neighbor,” said **Deputy Assistant Secretary Aurelia Skipwith**. “From state parks in Ohio to shooting ranges out West, the grants foster the kind of partnerships that enhance the visitor experience outdoors for Americans. For almost eighty years,

sportsmen have been investing in American conservation, keeping the traditions of hunting and fishing alive for future generations.”

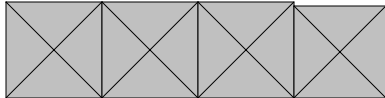
The funds, which are distributed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, support critical state conservation and outdoor recreation projects. They are derived from excise taxes paid by the hunting, shooting, boating and angling industries on firearms, bows and ammunition and sport fishing tackle, some boat engines, and small engine fuel.

Ohio hunters generate \$853 million economic impact for the state while anglers on Lake Erie alone spent over \$1 billion on fishing related expenses last year. Boaters also create \$939 million of economic impact annually.

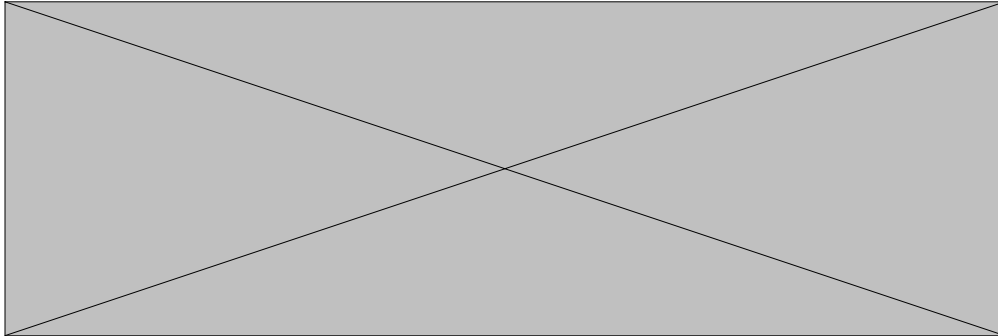
The recipient state wildlife agencies have matched these funds with approximately \$6.7 billion throughout the years, primarily through hunting and fishing license revenues.

For more information about the WSFR program visit <http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/>.

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-03-22T19:21:34-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Continues Meetings with Tribal Nations on Opioid Crisis
Received: 2018-03-22T19:22:13-04:00



Date: March 22, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Continues Meetings with Tribal Nations on Opioid Crisis

WASHINGTON - Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke traveled to Washington State where he held two meetings, one with the Spokane Tribal Business Council and another with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation. These meetings focused on the ongoing opioid epidemic and how the Department of the Interior can assist with tribal efforts. On Monday, President Trump announced the latest steps in the administration's push to end the crisis, including launching CrisisNextDoor.gov and Opioids.gov. Earlier this week, Secretary Zinke met with tribal leaders in Arizona and Wisconsin and tomorrow Zinke will meet with the Lummi Tribe.

“This morning’s meetings and discussions with Spokane Tribe and the Colville Tribes were positive and productive,” **said Secretary Zinke.** “While the opioid crisis affects every community in America, more often than not, tribal communities are disproportionately affected. The President and I have prioritized combating the epidemic through education, treatment, enforcement, and of course support. We are looking at how Interior can best support tribal law enforcement in cracking down on drug dealers through a joint task force and how to best support community-based treatment. We strongly believe the best holistic approach will be at the community and tribal level, and we are looking at ways to create programs that engage the women in the tribes because women are the life-givers and hold special places in the community.”

This morning's meeting with the Spokane Tribe began with a welcome and a blessing by the Wellpinit School Drum group at the Immersion School. After introductions, the Secretary and Tribal leadership discussed a number of other priorities including issues related to the Grand Coulee Dam and the Rural Broadband Initiative. Tribal leadership and the Secretary then discussed the opioid epidemic and the challenges it has created in their community. Finally, the group discussed incarceration challenges.

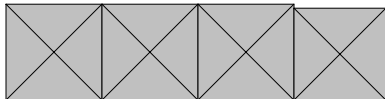
The Secretary met with the Colville Tribes later in the day. The meeting began with a traditional welcome ceremony and lunch with the Business Council. In addition to the opioid crisis, the discussion touched on forest management, wildfire restoration, and the proposed Department of the Interior reorganization.

Today and tomorrow's meetings cap off a week of essential meetings with Tribal leaders and members.

On Monday, Secretary Zinke held an inter-tribal round table in Phoenix, Arizona, with leadership from the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, Tohono O'odham Nation, Gila River Indian Community, and the Ak-Chin Indian Community.

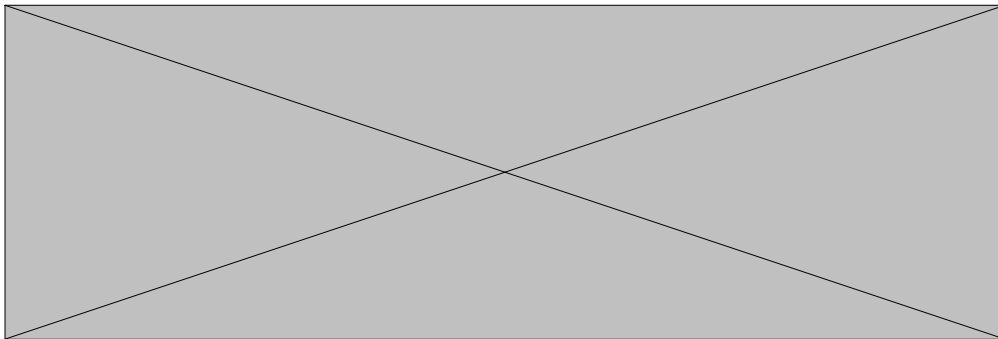
On Tuesday, Secretary Zinke met with the Oneida Nation (WI) leadership in regards to the national opioid crisis. The tribe identified the lack of access to local rehabilitation and counselors as the largest impediment to treatment and was heartened to see the President and the Secretary committed to addressing the stigma that sticks with those suffering with addiction. The meeting ended with a visit to the opioid epidemic memorial, pictured on the Secretary's Twitter account.

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-03-23T18:12:32-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Secretary Zinke Supports Grizzly Bear Restoration in North Cascades Ecosystem
Received: 2018-03-23T18:13:27-04:00
[DSCF3543.JPG](#)
[RKZ_8789.jpg](#)
[RKZ_8801.jpg](#)

ALL Wildlife Matters...



Date: March 23, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Supports Grizzly Bear Restoration in North Cascades Ecosystem

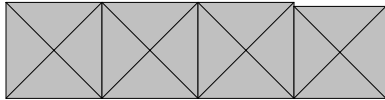
SEDRO-WOOLLEY, WA – Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke traveled to Sedro-Woolley, Washington, where he announced support of Grizzly Bear Restoration efforts in the North Cascades Ecosystem. The Secretary emphasized the cultural and spiritual importance of grizzly bears in Tribal communities, the contributions grizzly bears make to the biodiversity of the ecosystem, and the ecological devastation that the permanent loss of grizzly bears would cause if nothing is done.

“Restoring the grizzly bear to the North Cascades Ecosystem is the American conservation ethic come to life,” **said Secretary Zinke.** “We are managing the land and the wildlife according to the best science and best practices. The loss of the grizzly bear in the North Cascades would disturb the ecosystem and rob the region of an icon. We are moving forward with plans to restore the bear to the North Cascades, continuing our commitment to conservation and living up to our responsibility as the premier stewards of our public land.”

The National Park Service (NPS), the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and other

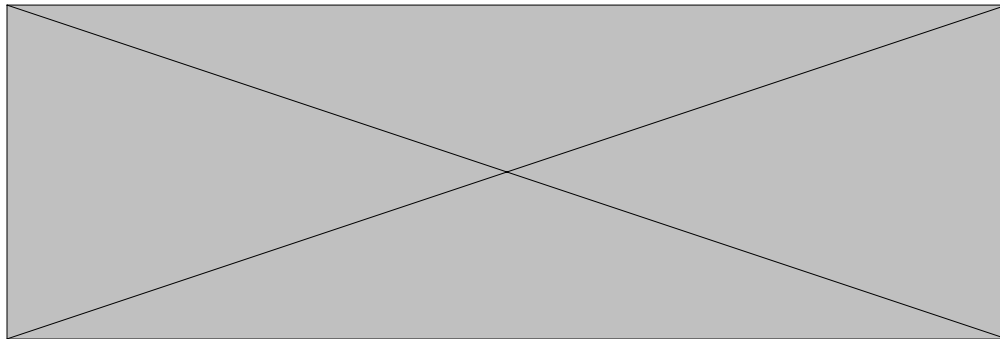
cooperating agencies developed a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and conducted numerous public meetings. Over 126,000 comments and correspondence were received on the alternatives. The comments will be analyzed and addressed to be included in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), which is tentatively scheduled for release in late summer of 2018.

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-03-26T17:10:24-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Selects Members of Newly Created "Made in America" Outdoor Recreation Advisory Committee
Received: 2018-03-26T17:19:06-04:00

One of America's greatest treasures is our public lands and parks. By improving public private partnerships with the help of American industry experts, ALL Americans win!



Date: March 26, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Selects Members of Newly Created "Made in America" Outdoor Recreation Advisory Committee

WASHINGTON - Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke announced the members of the "Made in America" Outdoor Recreation Advisory Committee. The Committee was established on November 8, 2017, and is intended to serve as an advisory board to the Secretary of the Interior on public-private partnerships across all public lands, with the goal of expanding access to and improving infrastructure on public lands and waterways.

"The Made in America Outdoor Recreation Advisory Committee is made up of the private sector's best and brightest to tackle some of our biggest public lands infrastructure and access challenges," **said Secretary Zinke**. "Dating back to the early days of the National Park Service, American businesses have been helping improve the public's public land experience by doing everything from building iconic lodges like the Grand Canyon's El Tovar to the historic "red jammers" in Glacier National Park. This Committee will help build on that legacy and provide valuable insight into addressing the maintenance backlog on our public lands. The Committee's

collective experience as entrepreneurs and business leaders provide unique insight that is often lost in the Federal government. As we rebuild our nation's infrastructure, we can continue the exponential growth of the American recreation sector, which supports millions of American jobs and bares a significant impact on our economy."

The members of the Committee were selected for their diverse backgrounds and experiences with the recreational industry. Members will have knowledge utilizing public-private partnerships, providing recreational visitor experiences, developing and deploying infrastructure improvements, or a thorough understanding of recreational equipment.

"America's abundance and beauty is something to be both preserved and admired," said Representative Dennis A. Ross. "As an RV enthusiast, I have been able to experience firsthand the glorious landscape of our great nation, and am thankful for those American entrepreneurs and innovators who think of new ways to experience what our country has to offer. I hope that with their guidance, more Americans will be able to witness the vast bounty of our land, from sea to shining sea."

"Northern Indiana is the RV Capital of the World, so Hoosiers know outdoor recreation plays a critical role in growing our nation's economy and creating American manufacturing jobs," said Representative Jackie Walorski. "I'm pleased Secretary Zinke is launching the "Made in America" Outdoor Recreation Advisory Committee to help achieve the important goals of increasing access to our nation's public lands, boosting investment in outdoor tourism, and building more American-made products like RVs and boats."

The duties of the Committee are strictly advisory and will consist of, but not be limited to, providing recommendations including:

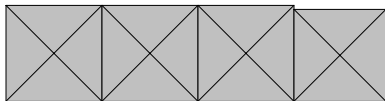
- Expand and improve visitor infrastructure developed through public-private partnerships;
- Implement sustainable operations embracing fair, efficient and convenient fee collection and strategic use of the collected fees;
- Improve interpretation using technology;
- Create better tools and/or opportunities for Americans to discover their lands and waters.

The members of the "Made in America" Outdoor Recreation Advisory Committee are listed below:

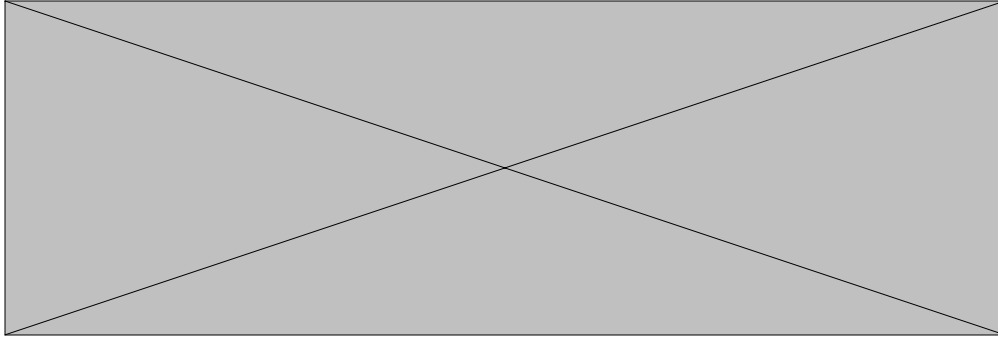
MEMBER NAME	ORGANIZATION
Benjamin Bulis	President & Chief Executive Officer, American Fly Fishing Trade Association
Amanda Covington	Senior Vice President of Communications & Government Relations, Vista Outdoor, Inc.

Linda Craghead	Assistant Secretary of Parks and Tourism, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism
Derrick Crandall	President, American Recreation Coalition; Counselor, National Park Hospitality Association
Bruce Fears	President, Aramark Leisure
Bradley Franklin	Government Relations Manager, Yamaha Motor Corporation USA
Antonio Gonzalez	President & Chief Officer, TAXA Outdoors
Jeremy Jacobs	Co-Chief Executive Officer, Delaware North
Christopher Maloof	Vice President, Strategy & Corporate Development, RA Outdoors
Matt Miller	President, Newmar Corporation
Phil Morlock	Vice President, Government Affairs & Advocacy, Shimano American Corporation/Shimano Canada Ltd.
John Morris	Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Bass Pro Shops
Patrick Pacious	Chief Executive Officer, President, & Director, Choice Hotels International, Inc.
Jim Rodgers	Chairman & Chief Executive Officer, KOA (Kampgrounds of America)
K.C. Walsh	Executive Chairman, Simms Fishing Products

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-03-27T17:50:47-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Welcomes Traveling Memorial to Lives Lost in Opioid Epidemic
Received: 2018-03-27T17:51:48-04:00



Date: March 27, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Welcomes Traveling Memorial to Lives Lost in Opioid Epidemic

WASHINGTON – Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke applauded President Trump for welcoming the “Prescribed to Death” exhibit to the Ellipse in Washington, D.C., where it will be hosted by the National Park Service and will be open to the public from April 12 until April 18, 2018.

The interactive exhibit, created by the National Safety Council as part of its “Stop Everyday Killers” public engagement campaign, features personal stories, impactful videos, and startling statistics. It also includes a wall with 22,000 simulated pills, each representing the face of an American overdose.

“‘The Prescribed to Death’ exhibit brings the very real tragedy experienced by countless American families to Washington, D.C., where it can send a strong message to lawmakers that we absolutely must work together to stop the opioid epidemic,” **said Secretary Zinke**. “The Department of the Interior is committed to fighting this battle alongside the President through education and awareness, proper treatment, effective enforcement, and community-based support. Just last week, I met with several tribal communities across America to discuss this very crisis. These communities have been tormented by opioid abuse for far too long, and I am looking forward to working with the President to rebuild these communities in hope for a better future.”

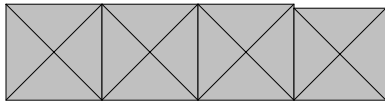
In the face of a rising number of deaths as a result of opioid abuse, President Donald Trump declared the opioid epidemic a national public health emergency in October 2017, and the

Department of the Interior has joined the government-wide effort to find innovative solutions to address this critical priority.

The Ellipse is part of President's Park, which includes 82 acres of park lands, statues, memorials and structures surrounding the White House. Learn more about President's Park at:
www.nps.gov/whho.

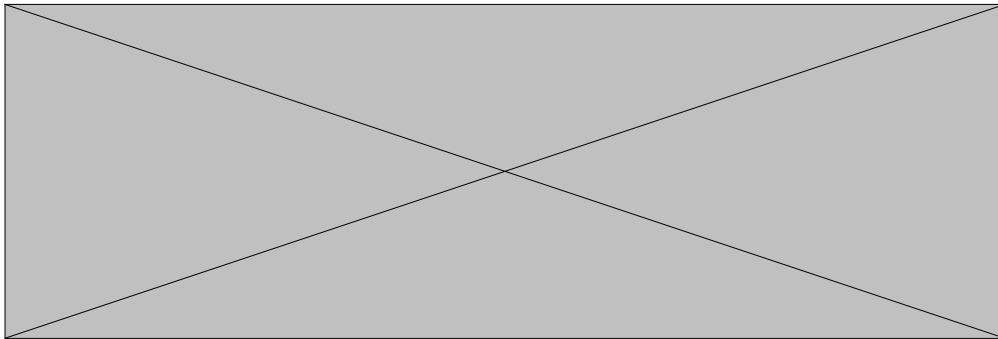
Additional details about public access to the temporary exhibit will be available soon and posted on the National Safety Council's website.

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-03-29T18:30:55-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Supports President Trump's Infrastructure Plan
Received: 2018-03-29T18:31:32-04:00

A working America is a great America.... President Trump and Secretary Zinke are helping spark job opportunities across the country!



Date: March 29, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Supports President Trump's Infrastructure Plan

WASHINGTON – U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke released the following statement following President Donald J. Trump's speech in Ohio about rebuilding American infrastructure.

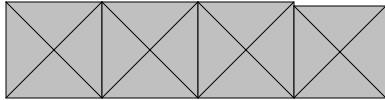
“President Trump is a builder and he knows that infrastructure is not merely an expense, it's an investment in America. Every dollar we put into rebuilding our roads, bridges, transmission lines, and pipelines will bolster the economy,” **said Secretary Zinke**. “At Interior we have tens of thousands of miles of roads and bridges, pipelines, trails, docks, and more. We also are responsible for permitting infrastructure projects whether they are on federal lands or not. Between investing in our public lands infrastructure to rebuild crumbling roads to streamlining the permitting process, we are supporting President Trump's modernization of our nation's infrastructure.”

A major component of the president's budget for the Interior Department included an \$18 billion fund to address critical infrastructure across public lands, to include National Parks. The proposal was picked up by Congress and a [bipartisan bill](#) was introduced in early March.

“In our National Parks alone, we are behind more than \$11 billion in needed repairs to roads, bridges, and other infrastructure - and it has real impacts on the American people. In Ohio where the President just gave his speech, the National Park Service has a backlog of \$103 million,” **said Secretary Zinke**. “A couple weeks ago, a water pipeline in the Grand Canyon

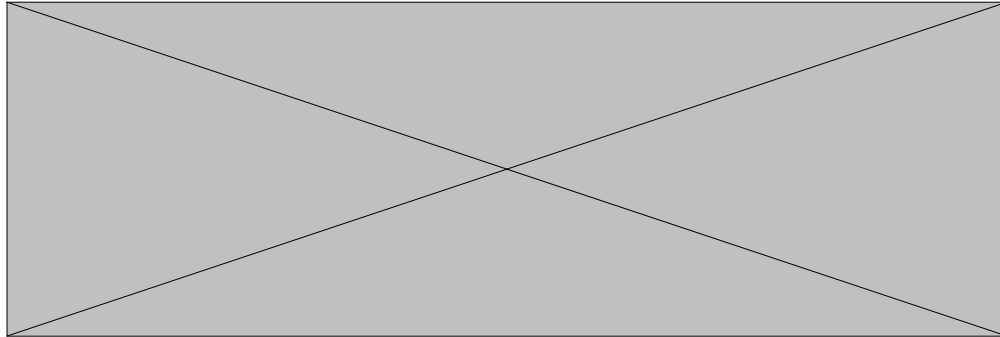
broke once again, which caused the villages in the park (roughly 2,000 residents and visitors plus businesses) to go into drought mitigation plans while the pipeline was patched. And, just this week, there was an accident at the Carlsbad Caverns in New Mexico that stranded visitors 740 feet below the earth's surface for hours. We believe this could have been avoided if work to modernize the elevator system had been initiated sooner. That's just two examples of many. Modernizing our infrastructure is not a Republican or Democrat issue, it's an American issue and President Trump and I already have a bipartisan bill making its way through Congress to address this critical issue."

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-04-09T18:08:08-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Committed to President Trump's Latest Infrastructure Initiative
Received: 2018-04-09T18:08:51-04:00

Under a Trump Administration, the federal government wants to restore trust and become a better business partner, not an over and cumbersome regulator...



Date: April 9, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Committed to President Trump's Latest Infrastructure Initiative

WASHINGTON - Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) committing the Interior Department to follow President Trump's One Federal Decision framework for processing of environmental reviews and permits for major infrastructure projects. The MOU was also signed by Secretaries from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, U.S. Department of Transportation, U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of the Army. Additional signatories to the MOU include the Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the Acting Executive Director of the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council. These officials signed the MOU pursuant to a joint memorandum issued by Mick Mulvaney, Director of the Office of Management and Budget, and Mary Neumayr, the Acting Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ).

"This agreement represents an unprecedented commitment by Federal agencies to work together to process environmental reviews for infrastructure projects," **said President Donald J. Trump.** "Under this agreement, the Federal Government commits to being more customer service oriented in the time it takes to make decisions. Projects will continue to meet applicable environmental standards, but the process will now be done in a reasonable amount of time. I commend all of the Secretaries and agency officials for their leadership and hard work to

implement my vision of One Federal Decision.”

“As both a lead agency and a permitting agency, the Department of the Interior understands the importance of having an efficient permitting process,” **said Secretary Zinke**. “I am 100 percent committed to ensuring that the Department does its part to collaborate and work together with other Federal agencies to complete the necessary reviews in accordance with the permitting timetable.”

President Trump has made it clear since day one that rebuilding America's infrastructure is a top priority. To ensure that the President's "One Federal Decision" process is successful, the Department of the Interior has implemented four distinct initiatives. These four initiatives include **1)** A project permitting task force dedicated to streamlining the Department's permitting process across all bureaus; **2)** Implementing policy guidance to ensure that our NEPA procedures comply with the portions of the CEQ regulations that require an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to be completed in 150 pages and on an expedient timeline; **3)** Ensuring proper guidance, management, and attention to projects that fall within the parameters of FAST 41; and, **4)** Interior is looking to reform the Endangered Species Act, and create regulations to better reflect the intent of the original legislation. Each one of these initiatives is being responsibly pursued to balance the Secretary's goals of environmental stewardship, conservation, and comprehensive land management.

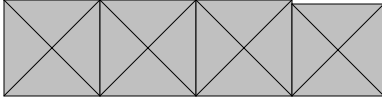
Under the MOU, the co-signing agencies are committing to work together to make the necessary environmental and permitting decisions for major infrastructure projects, with a goal to complete the entire process within 2 years. In general, the MOU commits agencies to processing their reviews in accordance with the following 4 principles:

- **Establish a Lead Federal Agency for the Complete Process.** Under the current process, project sponsors are responsible for navigating the decision-making processes of multiple Federal agencies. Under the MOU, Federal agencies agree to establish one Lead Federal Agency that will navigate the Federal environmental review and permitting process.
- **Commitment to Meeting the Lead Federal Agency's Permitting Timetable.** Under the current process, agencies are not generally required to follow a comprehensive permitting timetable. Under the MOU, Federal agencies agree to follow the permitting timetables established by the Lead Federal Agency with the goal of completing the process to 2 years.
- **Commitment to Conduct the Necessary Review Processes Concurrently.** Under the current process, agencies may conduct their own environmental review and permitting processes sequentially resulting in unnecessary delay, redundant analysis, and revisiting of decisions. Under the MOU, Federal agencies agree to conducting their processes at the same time and relying on the analysis prepared by the Lead Federal Agency to the maximum extent possible.
- **Automatic Elevation of Interagency Disputes.** Under the current process, interagency disputes sometimes linger for years in agency field offices before being elevated and resolved. Under the MOU, Federal agencies agree that interagency disputes will be automatically elevated and expeditiously resolved.

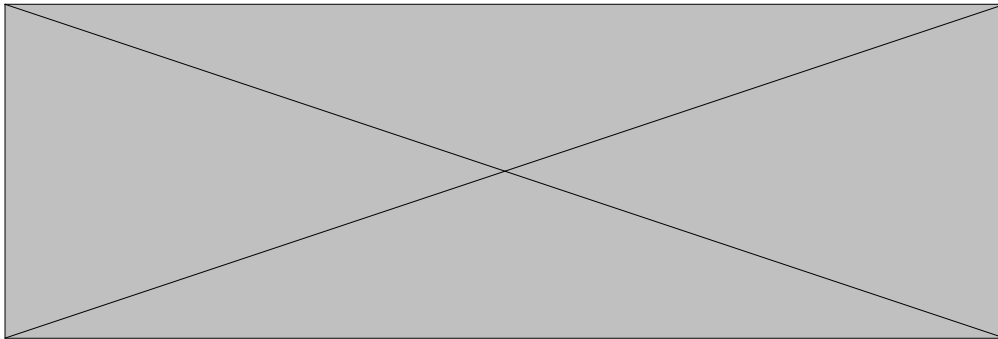
The Interior Department partners with other agencies across the Federal government to permit infrastructure projects. Currently, the Keystone XL pipeline project is going through the permitting process and the Department of the Interior is coordinating with the State Department and others to keep the decision-making process on schedule. Interior is also working on a MOU with the Department of Commerce (the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration & the National Marine Fisheries Service) to better coordinate on the offshore seismic permitting process, and the best possible way to navigate the technical differences on the issue between the agencies.

The President established the policy of One Federal Decision for the Federal Government's processing of environmental reviews and permits for major infrastructure projects in Executive Order 13807. Under One Federal Decision, Executive Order 13807 requires that each major infrastructure project have a lead Federal agency that is responsible for navigating the project through the process, all Federal agencies to sign one "Record of Decision" (for purposes of complying with the National Environmental Policy Act), and relevant Federal agencies to issue the necessary permits for the project within 90 days of the signing of the Record of Decision. Executive Order 13807 established a 2-year goal for the completion of the environmental review and permitting processes for the signature of the Record of Decision and issuance of the necessary permits.

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-04-11T19:27:56-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: In First Raid, New Opioid Task Force Seizes \$2.5 Million worth of Meth and \$22,000 in Marijuana, Heroin and Other Narcotics
Received: 2018-04-11T19:28:34-04:00



Date: April 11, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

In First Raid, New Opioid Task Force Seizes \$2.5 Million worth of Meth and \$22,000 in Marijuana, Heroin and Other Narcotics

Secretary Zinke made the announcement at the opening of the "Prescribed to Death" traveling memorial remembering victims and survivors of the opioid crisis

WASHINGTON - Today, just two weeks after U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke announced the Department was forming a new Joint Task Force (JTF) to combat the opioid crisis in Indian Country, the Secretary announced the JTF's first raid seized 49 pounds of methamphetamine with a street value of \$2.5 million and more than \$20,000 worth of marijuana, plus smaller amounts of heroin, and other narcotics. The raid was led by Interior's JTF with partnership from the Pueblo Tribes and New Mexico law enforcement officials. Secretary Zinke formed the JTF in response to President Donald J. Trump's commitment to end the opioid crisis.

“I am incredibly proud of the law enforcement officers on this Joint Task Force. The work they did over the weekend in New Mexico, seizing the very drugs that are poisoning tribal communities, will save lives,” **said Secretary Zinke.** “They successfully stopped \$2.5 million worth of methamphetamine from stealing our children's futures. Their work is a perfect example of what we can do when we leverage the resources of the government to address this crisis in Indian Country. President Trump's leadership in the fight against opioids and other drugs has been tremendous. Together, we are cracking down on the dealers who are selling out our kids.”

“I am very pleased to see that the new leadership in the BIA Office of Justice Services is exceeding expectations in carrying out the Secretary and President's direction to combat opioids

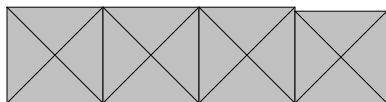
across Indian Country,” said **Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs Bryan Rice**. “Deputy Bureau Director Charlie Addington is leading a results-driven effort to address this epidemic in our communities and surrounding areas.”

The JTF consisted of agents and officers from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and their K-9 unit, Office of Justice Services, Division of Drug Enforcement, BIA District-IV Indian Country - High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Task Force, New Mexico State Police (NMSP) and their K-9 unit, NMSP Investigation Bureau’s Regional Narcotic Task Force, and the Department of Homeland Security Task Force.

This operation ran from April 3 to April 7, 2018, and was conducted at the following Pueblos around Albuquerque, New Mexico: Laguna, Sandia, Cochiti, San Ildefonso, Santa Ana, Santa Clara, Picuris, Santo Domingo, Pojoaque, Nambe, San Felipe, Tesuque, and Ohkay Owengah. The JTF conducted 304 traffic stops and 93 vehicle searches, issued 129 traffic citations, and arrested 11 subjects for drug possession.

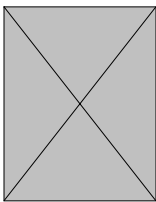
Last month, Secretary Zinke championed President Trump’s commitment to end the opioid epidemic in a series of tribal community visits during the week of the President’s Opioid initiative. The Secretary personally visited several tribal communities around the country — Tohono O’odham, Gila River, Salt River, and AK-Chin in Arizona; Oneida in Wisconsin; Spokane, Colville, and Lummi Nations in Washington State — to listen and learn about how the opioid crisis is impacting tribes and to show the Department’s commitment to addressing the resonating effects of this addiction. Tribes welcomed these visits and the President’s commitment to eliminating the opioid epidemic with the greatest appreciation.

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-04-12T15:28:10-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: National Park Service Announces Plan to Address Infrastructure Needs & Improve Visitor Experience
Received: 2018-04-12T15:29:34-04:00

The Trump Administration is helping protect one of its greatest treasures, our national parks...



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Office of
Communications
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC
20240

202-208-6843 phone
www.nps.gov

National Park Service News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: April 12, 2018

Contact: newsmedia@nps.gov

National Park Service Announces Plan to Address Infrastructure Needs & Improve Visitor Experience

Modified fee structure addresses feedback from public on original fee proposal

WASHINGTON – As part of its ongoing efforts to address aging park infrastructure and improve the visitor experience, the National Park Service (NPS) announced today changes to the entrance fees charged at national parks. The changes, which come in response to public comments on a fee proposal released in October 2017, will modestly increase entrance fees to raise additional revenue to address the \$11.6 billion in deferred maintenance across the system of 417 parks, historic and cultural sites, and monuments.

Most seven-day vehicle passes to enter national parks will be increased by \$5 and will be

implemented in many parks beginning June 1, 2018. Yosemite National Park for example will increase the price of a seven-day vehicle pass to the park from \$30 to \$35. More than two-thirds of national parks will remain free to enter. [A complete list of park entrance fees may be found here.](#)

All of the revenue from the fee increases will remain in the National Park Service with at least 80 percent of the money staying in the park where it is collected. The funds will be used for projects and activities to improve the experience for visitors who continue to visit parks at unprecedented levels. Increased attendance at parks, 1.5 billion visits in the last five years, means aging park facilities incurring further wear and tear.

“An investment in our parks is an investment in America,” said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke. “Every dollar spent to rebuild our parks will help bolster the gateway communities that rely on park visitation for economic vitality. I want to thank the American people who made their voices heard through the public comment process on the original fee proposal. Your input has helped us develop a balanced plan that focuses on modest increases at the 117 fee-charging parks as opposed to larger increases proposed for 17 highly-visited national parks. The \$11.6 billion maintenance backlog isn’t going to be solved overnight and will require a multi-tiered approach as we work to provide badly needed revenue to repair infrastructure. This is just one of the ways we are carrying out our commitment to ensure that national parks remain world class destinations that provide an excellent value for families from all income levels.”

The price of the annual America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Annual Pass and Lifetime Senior Pass will remain \$80.

“Repairing infrastructure is also about access for all Americans,” Secretary Zinke said. “Not all

visitors to our parks have the ability to hike with a 30-pound pack and camp in the wilderness miles

away from utilities. In order for families with young kids, elderly grandparents, or persons with

disabilities to enjoy the parks, we need to rebuild basic infrastructure like roads, trails, lodges,

restrooms and visitors centers.”

Fees to enter national parks predate the establishment of the National Park Service in 1916. For

example, Mount Rainier National Park began charging an entrance fee in 1908. Factoring in inflation, the \$5 entrance fee the park charged in 1914 would be the equivalent of a \$123 entrance fee today—more than four times the price of the new seven-day \$30 vehicle pass.

Entrance fees collected by the National Park Service totaled \$199 million in Fiscal Year 2016. The NPS estimates that once fully implemented, the new fee structure will increase annual entrance fee revenue by about \$60 million.

In addition to implementing modest fee increases and enhancing public-private partnerships aimed at rebuilding national parks, Secretary Zinke is working closely with Congress on proposed

bipartisan legislation to use revenue derived from energy produced on federal lands and waters to

establish a special fund within the Treasury specifically for “National Park Restoration”. The bill

follows the blueprint outlined in Secretary Zinke and President Trump's budget proposal, the Public

Lands Infrastructure Fund.

The National Park Service has a standardized entrance fee structure, composed of four groups based on park size and type. Some parks not yet aligned with the other parks in their category will raise their fees incrementally and fully incorporate the new entrance fee schedule by January 1, 2020.

The complete fee schedule will change according to the following:

Fee Structure Adjustment				
	Seven-Day Vehicle Pass	Person Pass	Motorcycle Pass	Park Specific Annual Pass

	Current	New	Current	New	Current	New	Current	New
Group 1	\$15	\$20	\$7	\$10	\$10	\$15	\$30	\$35
Group 2	\$20	\$25	\$10	\$15	\$15	\$20	\$40	\$45
Group 3	\$25	\$30	\$12	\$15	\$20	\$25	\$50	\$55
Group 4	\$30	\$35	\$15	\$20	\$25	\$30	\$60	\$70

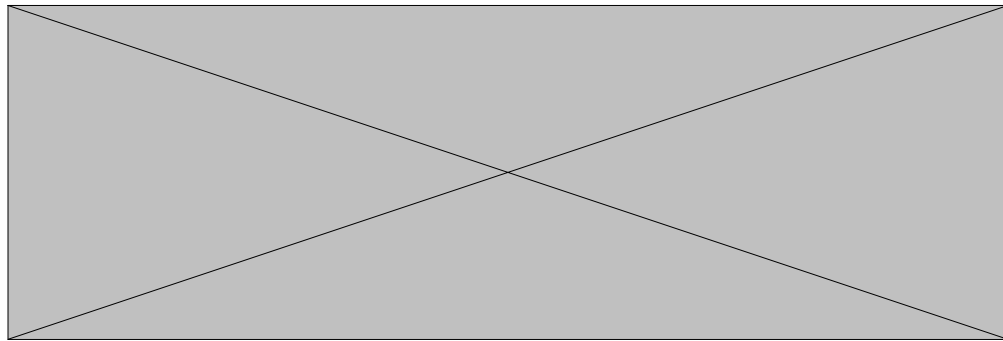
www.nps.gov

About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees who care for America's 417 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Visit us at <http://www.nps.gov>, on Facebook www.facebook.com/nationalparkservice, Twitter www.twitter.com/natlparkservice, and YouTube www.youtube.com/nationalparkservice.

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-04-16T17:15:52-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Quarter 1 in Review: Interior Releases Comprehensive List of First Quarter 2018 Accomplishments Under President Trump & Secretary Zinke
Received: 2018-04-16T17:16:32-04:00

Look at all the great things the Trump Administration and Secretary Zinke's are doing so far in 2018.... please don't get tired of winning yet!

Feel free to share these wonderful accomplishments with your members, stakeholders, or local communities!



Date: April 16, 2018
Contacts: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Quarter 1 in Review: Interior Releases Comprehensive List of First Quarter 2018 Accomplishments Under President Trump & Secretary Zinke

WASHINGTON – Today, the U.S. Department of the Interior released a comprehensive list of 2018 first quarter accomplishments that the Department has achieved under the leadership of President Donald J. Trump and U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke.

“Under the Trump Administration, Interior has made incredible strides in creating a conservation stewardship legacy, modernizing our infrastructure, helping combat opioid addiction, securing the southern border, and so much more,” **said Secretary Zinke**. “The Department is doing a tremendous job of breaking down regulatory barriers and cutting red tape to create economic prosperity that will benefit our nation. I signed an historic initiative to protect the migration corridors of North American big game species, we got to work opening the 1002 section in Alaska for responsible energy development, we partnered with BIA and other groups to form opioid task forces to crack down on drug abuse in Indian Country, and we introduced a bipartisan solution to fix the aging infrastructure in National Parks. The President and I look forward to keeping the pace and moving the country forward with America First policies.”

“Under Secretary Zinke’s leadership, we continue to make significant progress on a wide array of priorities for western states and insular areas,” **said Alaska Senator Lisa Murkowski, Chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee.** “From opening the 1002 Area, to responsible energy development, to a long-overdue agreement for a life-saving road for the people of King Cove, to the nomination of good Alaskans to serve in high-ranking key positions, the Department of the Interior is once again a true partner for us, and our future is much brighter for it.”

“I have known Secretary Zinke since we attended Boys State together in 1979,” **said Montana Senator Steve Daines.** “Being from Montana, Ryan’s Western values have guided his leadership at the Department of the Interior and brought responsible federal land stewardship and strengthened the government-to-government relationship with Indian tribes. He has done a great job.”

“Idahoans continue to tell me they are pleased with Secretary Zinke’s work at Interior,” **said Idaho Congressman Mike Simpson.** “I am particularly pleased with his dedication to fixing our Nationals Parks and his commitment to keeping public lands accessible. I look forward to working with him on these and many other issues.”

“DOI’s innovative policies on ESA, Outcome-based grazing, wildfire fuels reduction and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act are providing ranchers with operational certainty that is critical to ensuring a future for rural communities throughout the West,” **said Ethan L. Lane, Executive Director Public Lands Council & NCBA Federal Lands.**

“The Trump Administration took a big step in opening energy access with its draft OCS oil and gas leasing program, initiating a welcome departure from the Obama Administration’s 2017–2022 plan. The United States is the only country in the world that has placed a majority of its territorial waters off-limits to natural resources extraction,” **said Nick Loris Herbert, Fellow in Energy and Environmental Policy at The Heritage Foundation.** “Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s draft plan would change that. As the U.S. improves access to its energy resources, the economy will grow, and federal and state governments would benefit immensely from the increased revenues from royalties, rents, bonus bids, and overall economic activity.”

“Prioritizing the deferred maintenance backlog of our National Parks, engaging with private landowners on creating big-game migration corridors, putting more authority in the hands of regional and local managers, and reconsidering approaches for recovering threatened species such as the Louisiana pinesnake are all positive moves for conservation,” **said Brian Yablonski, Executive Director of Property and Environment Research Center.** “These efforts by the Department look for creative conservation solutions to environmental problems and promote stewardship of our many natural resources.”

“Under Secretary Ryan Zinke’s leadership, the Department of the Interior is leading the way in making America more competitive in the global energy marketplace,” **said Grover Norquist, President of Americans for Tax Reform.** “If the efforts to finally tap into our abundant natural resources succeed, taxpayers will reap the benefits for decades to come. Secretary Zinke’s work at DOI will lead to more high-paying jobs and significant economic growth.”

"Secretary Ryan Zinke is building off of a 2017 that saw the Department of the Interior as a frontrunner in terms of executing President Trump's historic regulatory reform agenda," **said Patrick Hedger, Director of Policy FreedomWorks**. "Under Zinke's watch, DOI rolled back the excesses of the previous administration—shrinking unnecessarily enormous national monuments that infuriated state governments and rescinding onerous restrictions on domestic energy production that duplicated existing state standards. There is clearly a strong pattern of cooperative federalism in Zinke's work. These trends look to continue into 2018, with plans underway to collaborate with states to liberate America's offshore oil, gas, and renewable energy resources and reorganize the Department to better serve, not subjugate, the states and the American people. FreedomWorks looks forward to continued support of these efforts and more."

Below is a summary of accomplishments during the first quarter of the year according to Secretary Zinke's Top Ten Priorities at the Department:

Create a conservation stewardship legacy, second only to Teddy Roosevelt

- **FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE:** Secretary Zinke signed Secretarial Order 3362, prioritizing conservation and big-game migration corridors.
- **FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE:** Issued a final delisting of the Eureka Valley evening primrose.
- **FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE:** Downlisted the Eureka dune grass from endangered to threatened.
- **FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE:** Announced more than \$1.1 billion in grants to state wildlife agencies from revenues generated by the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration and Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration (PDRJ) Acts.
- **FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE:** Held the first meeting of the Secretary's International Wildlife Conservation Commission (IWCC).
- **FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE:** Held a meeting of the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council Meeting with new guidance under Secretary Zinke's priorities.
- **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT:** Acquired 648 acres of land in the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument to facilitate traditional and recreation access.
- **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT:** Completed the latest in a series of improvements at off-highway vehicle recreation areas in northeast California and far northwest Nevada.
- **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT:** Decided to expand Phil's World, a nationally recognized mountain bike trail system six miles east of Cortez, Colorado.
- **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR:** Created a Hunting and Shooting Sports Conservation Council.
- **NATIONAL PARK SERVICE:** Secretary Zinke announced the Trump administration's support for grizzly bear restoration efforts in the North Cascades Ecosystem.

Responsibly develop our energy & natural resources

- **BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT:** Announced a slate of major wind initiatives.

- Proposed a sale for 390,000 acres of wind energy development off of the Massachusetts coast.
- Sought information and industry interest in offshore wind development within the New York Bight Region.
- Put out a Request for Feedback on future offshore wind energy leasing in the Atlantic.
- **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT:** Canceled a withdrawal application and the Department's proposed withdrawal of 1.3 million acres of federal lands from location and entry under the mining laws in the California Desert Conservation Area.
- **BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT:** Announced a Draft Proposed Five-Year Program for oil and gas leasing on the National Outer Continental Shelf.
- **INSULAR AFFAIRS:** Requested proposals for FY2018 Energizing Insular Communities Program funding (due May 31) to produce American energy in the territories.

Restore trust & be a good neighbor

- **INSULAR AFFAIRS:** Assistant Secretary Doug Domenech traveled to the Virgin Islands to provide \$2.8 million in grants for rebuilding infrastructure and utilities after the hurricanes.
- **INSULAR AFFAIRS:** Supported President Trump's signing of the Palau Compact in the 2018 Omnibus Funding Agreement, including \$123 million of funding through 2024.
- **FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE:** Worked out a state-federal partnership to link the conservation of the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker with the U.S. Marine Corps mission at Lejeune.
- **FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE:** Proposed Rule 4d protections for the Louisiana pinesnake, protecting the species while being a good neighbor.
- **FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE:** Announced a \$60 million cooperative agreement with the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation (RBFF) to help retain and recruit recreational anglers and boaters.
- **FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE:** Announced \$14 million in Boating Infrastructure Grants.
- **FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE:** Launched the Nature's Good Neighbors campaign to highlight public partners who are acting as conservationists across the country.
- **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR:** Announced \$18 million in "Anvil Points" energy payment funds to the state of Colorado after nearly a decade of the funds being withheld by the federal government.
- **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT:** Released a decision to allow the Riley Ridge Development Project to begin in Wyoming.
- **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT:** Issued decision on Environmental Assessment for Phase III McGinness Hills Geothermal Project in Lander County, Nevada.
- **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT:** Distributed almost \$300,000 in timber payments to two counties in western Oregon.
- **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT:** Announced outcome-based grazing projects for 2018, to give greater flexibility in the management of permitted livestock.

- **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR:** Signed an agreement with the Alaska Native King Cove Native Corp. to build a life-saving road between the Native village and a nearby all-weather airport in Cold Bay.

Ensure Tribal and Insular sovereignty means something

- **INSULAR AFFAIRS:** Held meetings between the United States and the Republic of the Marshall Islands to discuss policy and funding issues.
- **INDIAN AFFAIRS:** Secretary Zinke authorized the first funds transfer for the Blackfeet Water Settlement.
- **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT:** Approved a proposed land exchange between the Bureau and the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians.
- **INDIAN AFFAIRS:** Approved the Shawnee Tribe's Fee-to-Trust application for a gaming facility.
- **INDIAN AFFAIRS:** Signed an agreement with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation to implement the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations.
- **BUREAU OF RECLAMATION:** Resolved longstanding rights-of-way issues, approving rights-of-way to the Pueblos of Nambe, Pojoaque, San Ildefonso and Tesuque.

Increase revenues to support DOI and national interests

- **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT:** Held numerous Spring 2018 oil and gas lease sales across the country, including: Eastern States, Wyoming, Montana, Nevada, Utah, Colorado.
- **OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT:** Provided more than \$300 million in Abandoned Mine Lands grants to states and tribes.
- **BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT:** Held a region-wide oil and gas lease sale in the Gulf of Mexico, yielding \$124.7 million in high bids on 815,403 acres.
- **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT:** Generated nearly \$360 million from oil and gas lease sales in 2017, an 86-percent increase from the previous year and the highest in nearly a decade.

Protect our people and the border

- **INDIAN AFFAIRS:** Formed an opioid task force, bringing together Bureau of Indian Affairs drug agents and other partners, to work with tribes and address the opioid crisis in Indian Country.
- **INDIAN AFFAIRS:** Conducted a successful drug interdiction operation in New Mexico, netting millions of dollars in illegal drugs confiscated.
- **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT:** Began targeted, experimental grazing efforts to prevent wildfires.
- **U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY:** Published a list of minerals critical to U.S. economic

and national security, starting implementation of President Trump's Executive Order 13817 on Critical Minerals.

- **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR:** Published the 2017 Drone Mission Report, which noted that drone flights to support natural resource management across Interior (including support to firefighters suppressing wildfires) increased 82-percent from 2016 to 2017.
- **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR:** Released a report highlighting progress made in the fight against invasive zebra and quagga mussels.

Strike a regulatory balance

- **FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE:** Revised the previous administration's M-Opinion on the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and modified policies to ensure consistency with the new Opinion.
- **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT:** Rescinded the 2015 Hydraulic Fracturing Rule.
- **BUREAU OF SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT:** Announced a series of new initiatives to strengthen the federal offshore oil and gas inspection program.

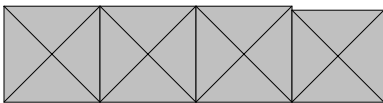
Modernize our infrastructure

- **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR:** Supported the inclusion of a Public Lands Infrastructure Fund in the President's FY19 budget request – the Fund would help pay for repairs and improvements in national parks, national wildlife refuges, and Bureau of Indian Education schools.
- **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR:** Began implementation of President Trump's executive order and presidential memorandum on rural broadband availability.
- **NATIONAL PARK SERVICE:** Secretary Zinke partnered with Congress on a bipartisan bill to address the maintenance backlog in our National Park System.
- **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR:** Selected members of Secretary Zinke's newly created "Made in America" Outdoor Recreation Advisory Committee.
- **BUREAU OF RECLAMATION:** \$50,000 awarded for five arsenic sensor solutions selected through a prize competition.
- **BUREAU OF RECLAMATION:** Launched prize competition looking for new ways to detect leaks and flaws in large buried pipelines.

Reorganize DOI for the next 100 years

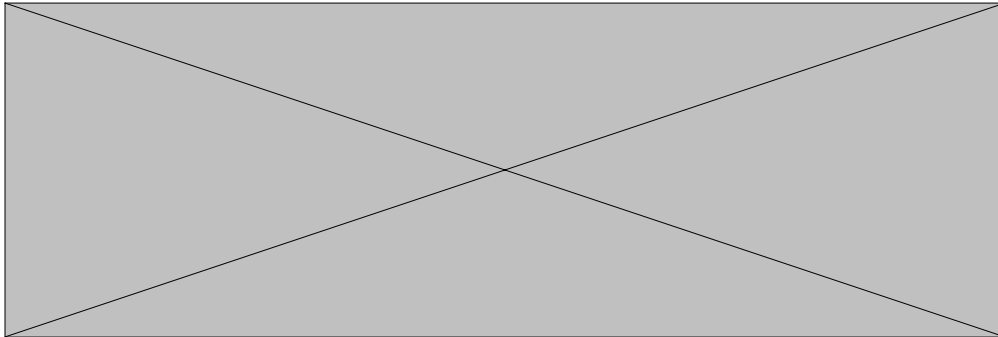
- **INSULAR AFFAIRS:** Secretary Zinke announced an expanded role for the Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs, expanding the role to include ocean activities and international affairs.
- **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR:** Moved forward on major initiative to reorganize the Department.

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From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-04-18T13:21:12-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke, Citing Record Energy Growth Under President Trump, Announces That He Will Not Lower Offshore Oil & Gas Royalty Rates
Received: 2018-04-18T13:21:54-04:00

Creating market certainty and streamlining permitting is more important to the industry than the royalty rates... The golden era of American energy dominance is still upon us!



Date: April 17, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke, Citing Record Energy Growth Under President Trump, Announces That He Will Not Lower Offshore Oil & Gas Royalty Rates

Improved Economy and Energy Prices Call for Continuing Existing Approach

WASHINGTON - Due to the success of President Donald J. Trump's America-First energy strategy, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke today announced that the Department of the Interior will not lower royalty rates for future offshore oil and gas lease sales at this time.

On February 28, the Royalty Policy Committee (RPC), re-chartered by Secretary Zinke in 2017, made its initial recommendations, including one to set a royalty rate of 12.5 percent on all Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) lease sales at all water depths through 2024.

Since then, an improving economy, federal tax reforms, higher energy prices, and greater regulatory certainty have led to positive market conditions, prompting Secretary Zinke's determination to keep the royalty rate in 200 meters of water and deeper at 18.75 percent.

"The pilot light of American energy has been re-lit by President Trump, and the President's energy dominance strategy is paying off," **said Secretary Zinke**. "Right now, we can maintain higher royalties from our offshore waters without compromising the record production and record exports our nation is experiencing. The Administration is grateful for the Committee's hard work on these significant energy issues."

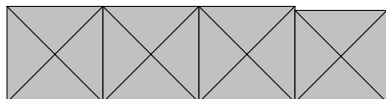
In addition to the recommendation for lower royalty rates, the RPC recommended that the Department update its studies on international onshore and offshore data that guide its decision-making, as well as study the comparable offshore producing nations of Guyana and Mexico, their royalty rates, total revenue, lease block sizes, and recent sales in particular.

“Today’s decision reflects the oil and gas industry’s improving market conditions for safe and responsible development of our abundant energy resources,” **said Vincent DeVito, Royalty Policy Committee Chair.** “The Committee will continue to study ways to improve our programs, including recommendations to improve market conditions for other forms of energy like coal and offshore wind.”

Last fall, the Department announced the current fiscal terms used for future offshore lease sales, taking into account market conditions and the need to ensure taxpayers receive fair market value for use of the OCS. These terms include a 12.5 percent royalty rate for leases in less than 200 meters of water depth, and a royalty rate of 18.75 percent for all other leases issued, beginning with the August 2017 lease sale. Analogous to the Federal Reserve System – when the market or other conditions dictate, the Department has the statutory authority to adjust royalty rates for upcoming sales in accordance with federal law.

The Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act grants the Secretary the authority to conduct lease sales on the OCS that “assure receipt of fair market value for the lands leased and the rights conveyed by the Federal Government.” Lessees pay bonuses, rentals, and royalties reflecting the value of the rights to explore and potentially develop and produce OCS oil and gas resources. These revenues are distributed to the Federal Treasury, state governments, Land and Water Conservation Fund, and the Historic Preservation Fund. The Department, through the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, sets minimum bid levels, rental rates, and royalty rates by individual lease sale based on its assessment of market and resource conditions as the sale approaches.

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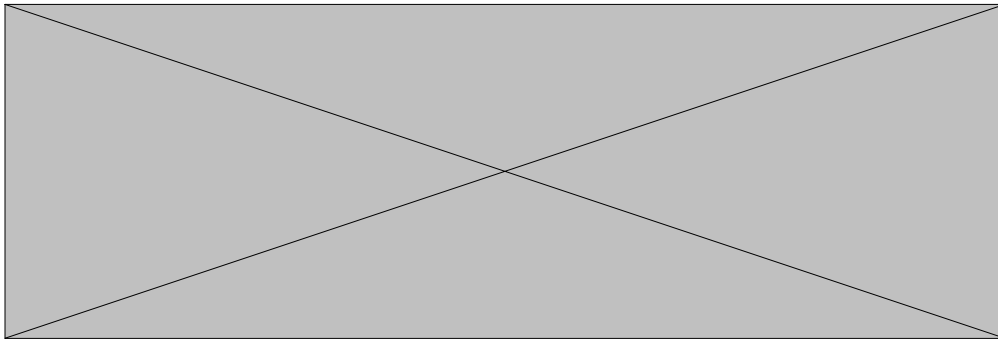


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Nate Adams
Office of Communications
U.S. Department of the Interior
202-208-2060

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-04-18T14:44:42-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Interior Approves Final Two Segments of Gateway West Power Line
Received: 2018-04-18T14:47:39-04:00

The Trump Administration and Secretary Zinke's priorities of infrastructure and energy dominance coming to fruition...



Date: April 18, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Interior Approves Final Two Segments of Gateway West Power Line

Transmission line will create jobs and provide more reliable power to the Western U.S.

WASHINGTON – The Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Land Management has approved routes for segments of the Gateway West electric transmission line project on public lands in southwestern Idaho, connecting previously authorized routes in southern Wyoming and eastern Idaho. The project will improve the nation’s energy infrastructure and boost the economy in the Pacific Northwest and Intermountain West.

“President Trump has been clear -- we need to bring our infrastructure, including our energy infrastructure, into the 21st Century,” **Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke said.** “The Gateway West electric transmission line is an example of the President's vision in action, and it will help power the American West for years to come, as America achieves energy dominance. I thank the State of Idaho and the other partners with whom we worked so closely to get this done.”

The Gateway West project supports the President’s America First Energy Plan while furthering the administration’s priorities of achieving energy dominance, modernizing the nation’s infrastructure, creating jobs and providing economic opportunity. The transmission line is expected to deliver enough power to supply 975,000 homes and generate an estimated 3,100 jobs during construction and operation, including more than 1,360 connected with segments 8 and 9 in southern Idaho, for a total labor income of \$23.1 million.

“Throughout his time as Secretary of the Interior, Secretary Zinke has put an emphasis on working with federal, state, and local partners to achieve mission success,” **Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management Joe Balash said.** “The Gateway West approval is a major victory for the West, and it was only possible as a result of the Secretary's commitment to partnership, as well as the State of Idaho's willingness to make this happen. President Trump's bold leadership is having real and positive consequences for American infrastructure and American energy.”

Balash signed a Decision Record authorizing the BLM to offer rights-of-way (ROWs) on public lands for segments 8 and 9 of the project to Idaho Power and Rocky Mountain Power and amending applicable BLM land use plans to accommodate these ROWs.

“We spent eight years in the wilderness, fighting an uphill battle against entrenched regulators in the Obama administration to get this essential piece of energy infrastructure approved. Now, in just over a year under the Trump administration, we’ve seen a 180-degree change in the federal approach,” **Idaho Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter said.** “I’m grateful for the recent rebirth of federalism we’ve seen, and for the Interior Department’s understanding of this project’s importance throughout the region.”

“Approval of segments 8 and 9 is welcome news in Idaho and I thank Assistant Secretary Balash for following the intent of my legislation,” **said Congressman Mike Simpson.** “This Idaho solution is good for the economy, conservation, and ratepayers who will benefit from lower rates and transmission reliability.”

Simpson sponsored legislation in 2017 that was signed into law as part of the Fiscal Year 2017 Consolidated Appropriations Act. The legislation resolved concerns about effects to the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area and allowed the transmission line to be routed using the BLM Resource Advisory Council’s (RAC) preferred alternative, which was also supported by the State of Idaho.

“Completing these two segments of transmission line will deliver reliable power to southern Idaho while also creating good paying construction and ongoing maintenance jobs,” **said Senator Mike Crapo, Chairman of the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee.** “The approval of these final segments is testament to the success in the collaboration between the Bureau of Land Management, State of Idaho and surrounding communities who best understand how to protect and preserve lands while supporting needed energy infrastructure.”

“The decision advances a common-sense solution between federal, state, and local representatives to best provide for Idaho's energy needs and promote the region’s energy infrastructure moving forward,” **said Senator Jim Risch.** “I want to thank the Administration, specifically the Bureau of Land Management, for diligently working with the State of Idaho to advance the Gateway West project. I look forward to the next phase of this project and the economic growth and development it will bring to Idaho.”

“Gateway West is critical to Idaho’s economy and it’s great news that the final two segments have been approved,” **said Congressman Raúl Labrador.** “The route now reflects a solution

crafted on the ground in Idaho that fairly reflects local needs while clearing the way for an important regional energy project.”

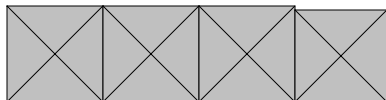
Rocky Mountain Power and Idaho Power first proposed the 500-kilovolt, 10-segment Project in 2007 as a 10-segment, 500-kilovolt transmission line originating near Glenrock, Wyoming, and terminating at the Hemingway substation, 20 miles southwest of Boise, Idaho. The BLM authorized public-land ROWs for segments 1 through 7 and 10 in 2013, but deferred a decision on segments 8 and 9 to examine additional routing options.

The BLM analyzed a range of alternative routes for segments 8 and 9 in a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS). A subsequent Environmental Assessment led to a Finding of No New Significant Impact beyond those disclosed in the Supplemental EIS. The EA follows appeals of the January 2017 Record of Decision (ROD) from the State of Idaho, Owyhee County Commissioners, and three environmental groups, along with requests for reconsideration from Governor Otter and the project proponents, PacifiCorp/Rocky Mountain Power and Idaho Power.

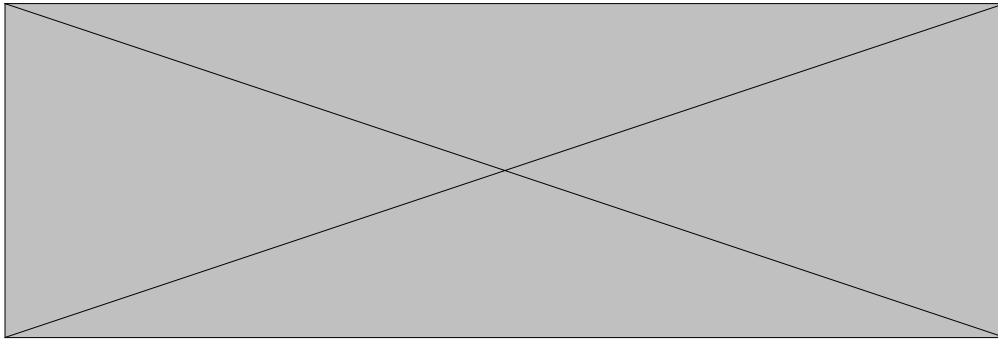
As part of a larger effort to modernize the grid in the Pacific Northwest, the Project furthers America’s energy security and transmission reliability. Authorizing the final segments of the Project will make 7,191 acres of Federal lands within the ROW available to transmit electric power generated from both traditional (i.e. coal-fired and natural gas-fired) generation facilities and renewable sources (i.e. wind generation facilities) in Wyoming and Idaho.

The Gateway West Project is another example of the Trump administration's commitment to rebuilding America's infrastructure. President Trump has prioritized infrastructure development, including an Executive Order the President signed in August 2017 Establishing Discipline and Accountability in the Environmental Review and Permitting Process for Infrastructure.

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From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-04-18T17:51:17-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Interior Awards \$17.68 Million Contract for Dam Modification in Utah to Tribal Company
Received: 2018-04-18T18:00:47-04:00



Date: April 18, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Interior Awards \$17.68 Million Contract for Dam Modification in Utah to Tribal Company

Award Shows Commitment to Infrastructure Improvement, Tribal Economy

SALT LAKE CITY - The Department of the Interior's Bureau of Reclamation today awarded a \$17.68-million contract to Weeminuche Construction Authority of Towaoc, Colorado, which is 100 percent owned by the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, for modification work at Steinaker Dam near Vernal, Utah.

"This award represents the Administration's commitment to infrastructure improvement, public safety, and supporting the tribe in building its economy," **Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke** said.

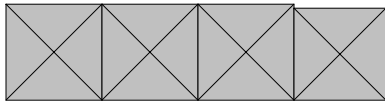
Reclamation Commissioner Brenda Burman noted that, "Beyond improving the structure of Steinaker Dam, this work will result in a safer facility that will better serve water users and protect the surrounding community."

Steinaker Dam impounds an important off-stream reservoir fed by flows diverted from Ashley Creek via a two-mile feeder canal. It is an important part of the Central Utah Project and provides reliable water for Vernal and Jensen Unit CUP lands. Restricted operations have been in place at the dam since 2014, when a slope failure was observed on the upstream face of the right abutment. Upon completion of work under this contract, Reclamation anticipates a return to full and normal operations at the dam.

The firm, fixed-price construction contract will correct the problem at the right abutment. The work will include extending the existing outlet works concrete conduit with a steel-lined, concrete-encased conduit upstream; constructing a new cast-in-place concrete intake structure; and reconstruction of the embankment, including flattening the adjacent upstream slope.

Reclamation previously completed a full environmental assessment of the modification project, which resulted in a January 2017 Finding of No Significant Impact.

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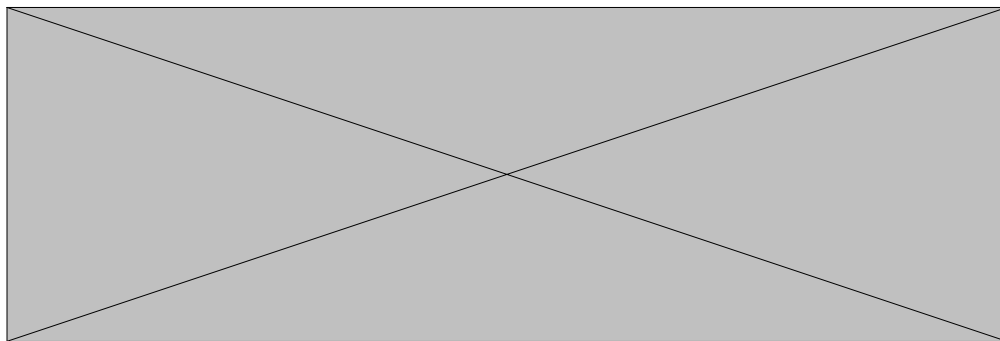


From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-04-18T17:58:22-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Zinke Signs Secretarial Orders to Increase Recreational Opportunities on Public Lands and Waters
Received: 2018-04-18T18:00:13-04:00

With Trump's tax Reform, deregulation efforts, and everything else the Administration is doing to help our economy thrive, more people can take time to recreate in America's great outdoors and public lands.

Thanks to the recreation community for supporting the Trump administration in prioritizing outdoor recreation on public lands...

<https://twitter.com/SecretaryZinke?lang=en>



Date: April 18, 2018

Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Zinke Signs Secretarial Orders to Increase Recreational Opportunities on Public Lands and Waters

Establishes Position of Senior National Advisor for Recreation

WASHINGTON – U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke today signed two secretarial orders continuing his efforts to prioritize the Department of Interior's recreation mission and increase access to public lands.

Secretarial Order 3366 directs certain Interior bureaus to create and deliver plans to the Department within 90 days that focus on developing or expanding recreational opportunities on public lands and waterways. This order also directs bureau heads to designate one full-time employee charged to oversee recreational opportunities.

“From my first day on the job, I have made it abundantly clear that we are going to refocus on Interior's long-standing but recently forgotten recreation mission,” **said Secretary Zinke**. “We are incredibly fortunate, as Americans, to have amazing public lands and waters to carry out our

tradition of outdoor recreation but the Department must continue to create opportunities to increase access for these pursuits.”

“We are delighted by the Secretary’s actions to put in place what he has pledged: a system that will elevate the priority of outdoor recreation on public lands and waters managed by the Department of Interior,” **said Thom Dammrich, the President of the National Marine Manufacturers Association.** “The Secretary’s action recognizes the importance of outdoor recreation for our economy, particularly rural economies, and for the physical and mental health of all Americans. His actions today will help grow outdoor recreation and ensure that fun in the outdoors remains central to the American lifestyle. The Outdoor Recreation Roundtable pledges our support to the Secretary in his efforts to elevate the Department’s commitment to outdoor recreation.”

"Outdoor recreation is an economic engine that produces 2% of the U.S. GDP and is growing at a faster rate than the U.S. economy as a whole," **said Frank Hugelmeyer, the President of the RV Industry Association.** "With the right public policies, outdoor recreation will continue to be an American economic engine for years to come. Which is why the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable and its member associations applaud today’s announcements by Secretary Zinke as a common sense plan to elevate the importance of outdoor recreation on public lands and waters throughout the Department of the Interior. This is an important step towards improving the visitor experience on public lands and waters across the country."

“The recreation industry looks forward to cooperating with the department to offer visitors to parks, refuges and other special places great experiences,” **said Derrick Crandall, President of the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable.** "The result of better and modernized visitor infrastructure which will contribute to a renaissance of rural communities and a renewed commitment by all Americans to the strong conservation ethic our nation has shared with the world. We thank Secretary Zinke for putting a new emphasis on welcoming enjoyment of our public lands and waters and embracing new skills and new ideas to make visits compatible with protecting our natural and historic resources.”

The bureaus are also asked to provide recommendations for improving and streamlining relevant permitting requirements for guides and outfitters and facilitated outdoor recreation providers and to improve contracting processes for recreation-specific concessioners.

“Whether your favorite activity is kayaking on a river, riding an ATV on sand dunes, jogging on a trail or hunting on a refuge—recreating on public lands and waters is good for the mind, body and soul,” **said Secretary Zinke.** “And it is also incredibly vital to local economies who rely on recreation spending to help create jobs.”

Secretarial Order 3365 establishes the position of Senior National Advisor to the Secretary for Recreation to ensure deliberate and active coordination of recreational policy in the U.S. Department of the Interior. The position will be filled by Rick May, who currently serves as a Senior Advisor to the Secretary.

May, who joined Interior in November 2017, is a retired U.S. Navy SEAL Captain and decorated veteran who served in the Iraq War. Since his departure from active duty in 2010, he has worked

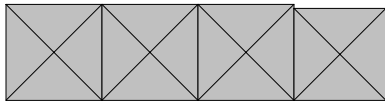
with wounded Veterans in various types of recreational activities, helping them to reintegrate back into mainstream America. May is a graduate of Sonoma State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Biology and he also holds a Master of Arts in Human Resource Management.

“Rick is the absolute best person for this job,” **said Secretary Zinke**. “The work he has done in helping disabled veterans connect with the outdoors through recreation opportunities speaks for itself. As a former SEAL, he has the leadership needed to help the Department chart its course in making recreation a priority again.”

"First, I'm truly honored and grateful for the confidence that Secretary Zinke has placed in me to hold this position," **said Rick May**. "The power of recreation can not be overstated, and its ties to overall health and well-being are undeniable. It is my mission to get more Americans out to enjoy our great public lands, and I look forward to increasing access and opportunity for each and every one of them."

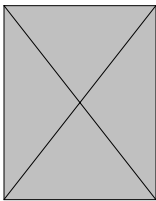
The Secretarial Orders come on the heels of Secretary Zinke selecting members of the newly created “Made In America” Outdoor Recreation Advisory Committee. A primary charge to the committee is to advise the Secretary on public-private partnerships across all public lands, with the goal of expanding access to and improving the infrastructure on public lands and waters.

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-04-25T17:09:21-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Zinke Announces \$35.8 Billion Added to U.S. Economy in 2017 due to National Park Visitation
Received: 2018-04-25T17:09:55-04:00

Our National Parks are a benefit to both those who visit and those local communities surrounding them...



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Office of
Communications
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC
20240

202-208-6843 phone
www.nps.gov

National Park Service News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: April 25, 2018

Contact: newsmedia@nps.gov

Zinke Announces \$35.8 Billion Added to U.S. Economy in 2017 due to National Park Visitation

Report Finds Parks Support 306,000 jobs Mostly in Hotels, Restaurants, Transportation, Recreation

WASHINGTON – As the nation celebrates National Park Week, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke announced today that national park visitation in 2017 resulted in a \$35.8 billion benefit to the nation's economy--a nearly \$1 billion increase over 2016.

According to the annual National Park Service report, 2017 National Park Visitor Spending Effects were \$35.8 billion, or 1.3 percent of the nation's gross domestic product. Of the 306,000 jobs supported by that spending, more than 255,000 were in the private sector.

“This report illustrates the incredible economic value of our national parks, and further shows that national parks provide us a gateway to the outdoors, family recreation opportunities, and connect communities all across the nation. Parks provide jobs and fuel the outdoor recreation and tourism economy. But to address deferred maintenance and infrastructure needs to ensure parks remain world-class destinations, we need Congress on a bipartisan bill to address the maintenance backlog.”

“Parks are priceless not only for their intrinsic natural beauty and historical significance, but also for the economic development they provide,” said Will Shafroth, President and CEO of the National Park Foundation. “The investments we make in parks are investments in our nation's economic development.”

Visitor spending varied across the National Park System, from big parks like Yellowstone National Park to smaller parks like Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site that attracted more than 45,000

The lodging sector received the highest direct contributions with \$5.5 billion in economic output next greatest direct contributions with \$3.7 billion in economic output to local gateway economies

According to the 2017 report, most park visitor spending was for lodging/camping (32.9 percent), food and beverages (10.1 percent), souvenirs and other expenses (10.1 percent), admissions and fees (10.0 percent), and local transportation (9.9 percent).

“National parks connect us with nature and help tell America’s story,” said Dan Smith, Deputy I Director, “National parks are proven economic engines for local communities and states,” said Marcia Aronson, Deputy Director. “Ensuring that our park sites are safe, accessible, and preserved for future generations is a smart investment for the nation and the world.”

“National parks are proven economic engines for local communities and states,” said Marcia Aronson, Deputy Director. “Ensuring that our park sites are safe, accessible, and preserved for future generations is a smart investment for the nation and the world.”

The peer-reviewed economics report was prepared by economists Catherine Cullinane Thomas and John R. Williams of the National Park Service. It includes information by parks and by states on visitor spending, the number of jobs supported, and total economic output.

Report authors also produce an [interactive tool](#) that enables users to explore visitor spending, jobs supported, and total economic output by state. Users can also view year-by-year trend data.

National Park visitation grew by 7.7 percent from 2015 to 2017 which included the 2016 centennial year.

For more state-by-state information about national parks and how the National Park Service is working to protect and preserve them, visit <http://www.nps.gov/virginia>.

National Park Visitor Spending Contributions to the U.S. Economy 2012-17

	Visitation	Visitor Spending	Jobs Supported	Local Jobs	Total Output
2012	282,765,682	\$14.7 billion	242,712	201,040	\$26.8 billion
2013	273,630,895	\$14.6 billion	237,599	197,343	\$26.5 billion
2014	292,800,082	\$15.7 billion	276,960	235,600	\$29.7 billion
2015	307,247,252	\$16.9 billion	295,339	252,030	\$32 billion
2016	330,971,689	\$18.4 billion	318,000	271,544	\$34.9 billion
2017	330,882,751	\$18.2 billion	306,000	255,900	\$35.8 billion

(Press release originally distributed by the [Department of the Interior Press Office](#))

www.nps.gov

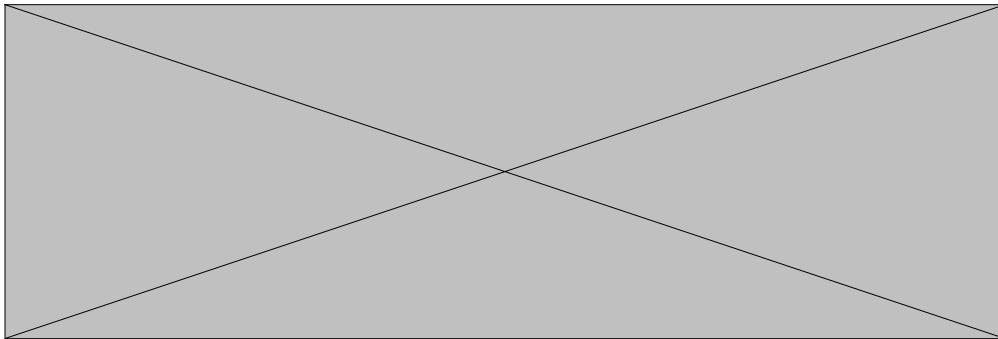
About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees who care for America’s history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Visit us at <http://www.nps.gov>, on Facebook [www.facebook.com/nationalparkservice](#), or on YouTube www.youtube.com/nationalparkservice.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-04-25T17:29:23-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Announces Grants to Boost Wetland, Waterfowl Conservation, Access to Public Lands
Received: 2018-04-25T17:29:57-04:00

Despite what you hear from the fake news media, Secretary Zinke and the entire Trump Administration are working diligently with neighboring countries to preserve and improve public lands, habitats, and wildlife...



Date: April 25, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Announces Grants to Boost Wetland, Waterfowl Conservation, Access to Public Lands

WASHINGTON – The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, chaired by U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke, today approved \$24.6 million in grants for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and its partners to conserve or restore more than 176,000 acres of wetland and associated upland habitats for waterfowl, shorebirds and other birds in 18 states throughout the United States.

The grants, made through the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA), come as the nation prepares to celebrate American Wetlands Month, an annual event that highlights the value of wetlands and encourages all Americans to help conserve these valuable habitats throughout the year. The grants will be matched by over \$66 million in partner funds. NAWCA grants ensure waterfowl and other birds are protected throughout their lifecycles.

“Hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation are true American pastimes,” **said Secretary Zinke.** “I grew up hunting and fishing and know first-hand how important the outdoors is for our own health, the health of our communities and the health of our economy. These projects expand access and protect the birds, lands and waters that we all love, while also growing local economies.”

Wetlands provide many ecological, economic and social benefits such as habitat for fish, wildlife and a variety of plants. NAWCA grants conserve bird populations and wetland habitat, while supporting local economies and American traditions such as hunting, fishing, birdwatching, family farming and cattle ranching. This year's projects include:

- **Missouri Coteau Habitat Conservation XVI:** \$1 million to conserve 3,503 acres of wetlands and grasslands for waterfowl, songbirds and other species in North Dakota.
- **Lake Erie Coastal Wetlands II:** \$1 million to restore, acquire, and conserve 2,765 acres of forested, shrub, and other wetlands in Ohio, which serve as wintering, breeding or migration habitat for green-winged teal, gadwall, black ducks and many other species.
- **San Joaquin Wetlands Conservation III:** \$1 million to restore and enhance 3,547 acres of important wetlands, riparian habitat and associated uplands in California's Central Valley. Species that will benefit include mallard, northern pintail and wood ducks.

Since many of America's birds spend part of their time in other countries, NAWCA provides grants to Canada and Mexico as well, to ensure waterfowl and other birds are protected throughout their lifecycles. The commission approved \$26 million for 17 projects in those countries.

NAWCA is the only federal grant program dedicated to the conservation of wetland habitats for migratory birds. Since 1989, funding has advanced the conservation of wetland habitats and their wildlife in all 50 U.S. states, Canada and Mexico while engaging more than 5,700 partners in over 2,700 projects. More information about the grant projects is available [here](#).

The commission also approved more than \$9.8 million from the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund to conserve 5,628 acres for two national wildlife refuges. These funds were raised largely through the sale of Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps, commonly known as "Duck Stamps."

"The Duck Stamp program has an eight-decade track record of success," **said Zinke**. "These refuges and many others across the United States demonstrate how the millions of dollars that sportsmen and women contribute to the program add up to more wildlife and more places for all Americans to enjoy."

Funds raised from the sale of Federal Duck Stamps goes toward the acquisition or lease of habitat for the National Wildlife Refuge System. Duck Stamps – while required by waterfowl hunters as an annual license – are also voluntarily purchased by birders, outdoor enthusiasts and fans of national wildlife refuges who understand the value of preserving some of the most diverse and important wildlife habitats in our nation.

The following national wildlife refuges are approved for funding:

- **Catahoula National Wildlife Refuge, Louisiana:** \$6,787,800 million
- **Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge, Washington:** \$3,003,000 million

The Catahoula Refuge project will maintain the existing public recreational access for big

game, upland game and waterfowl hunting and eliminate the need for the Service to secure, develop and maintain new access routes to existing refuge lands. The Turnbull Refuge project will enable the Service to conserve and restore wetlands and expand recreational access within one-quarter mile of the refuge's headquarters.

Since 1934, the Federal Duck Stamp Program and Migratory Bird Conservation Fund have provided more than \$1 billion for habitat conservation in the Refuge System.

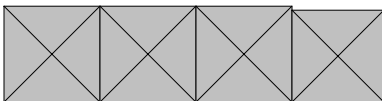
The FWS is responsible for managing 566 national wildlife refuges and 38 wetland management districts spanning 150 million acres across the National Wildlife Refuge System. Refuges offer world-class public recreation, from fishing, hunting and wildlife observation to photography and environmental education. More than 53 million people visit refuges every year, creating economic booms for local communities.

The commission also approved a resolution recognizing the contributions of Senator Thad Cochran to migratory bird conservation. Before retiring on April 1, 2018, the Senator served more than 36 years on the commission, overseeing conservation of 2.4 million acres of waterfowl habitat in national wildlife refuges, and approving NAWCA grants for public-private partnerships that have conserved, restored or enhanced 30.7 million acres of wetlands and associated uplands across North America.

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission is chaired by the Secretary of the Interior. Its members include U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich of New Mexico; U.S. Senator John Boozman of Arkansas; Representatives Robert J. Wittman of Virginia and Mike Thompson of California; Sonny Perdue, Secretary of Agriculture; and EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. The commission has helped in conserving much of this nation's most important waterfowl habitat and in establishing or enhancing many of our Nation's most popular destinations for waterfowl hunting.

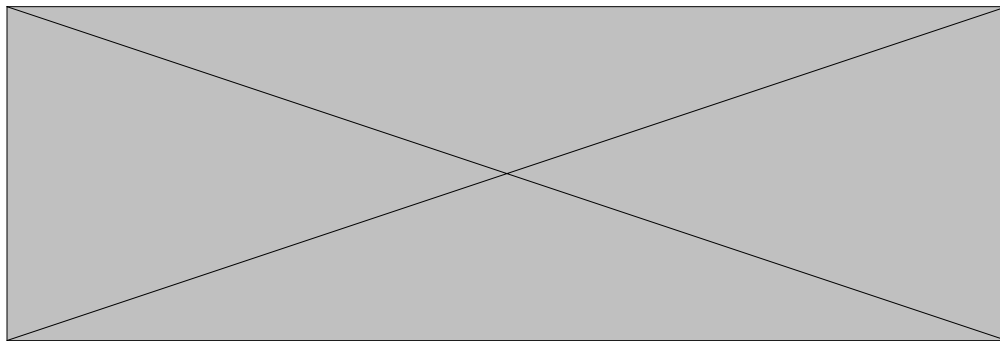
Additional information about North American wetlands and waterfowl conservation can be found at <https://www.fws.gov/birds/>, which offers waterfowl enthusiasts, biologists and agency managers with the most up-to-date waterfowl habitat and population information.

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From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-04-26T13:19:52-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Proposes 20 Year Mineral Withdrawal Renewal for Wyoming Bighorn Sheep Winter Range
Received: 2018-04-26T13:20:28-04:00

Another action demonstrating the Secretary's priority of multiple use of federal lands and conservation stewardship...



Date: April 25, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Proposes 20 Year Mineral Withdrawal Renewal for Wyoming Bighorn Sheep Winter Range

WASHINGTON – Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke proposed to renew a mineral withdrawal in the Whiskey Mountain Bighorn Sheep Winter Range, southeast of Dubois, Wyoming, for an additional 20 years. The proposal follows Zinke's secretarial order to protect big game migration corridors and winter range and as many states, like Wyoming, are prioritizing migration initiatives to better help and understand the habits of animals like sheep, mule deer, elk, and antelope. This measure will ensure that these robust big game populations continue to thrive and exist for hunters and wildlife watchers.

“The Trump administration is serious about conservation, and we are backing up our words with action,” **said Secretary Zinke.** “I’ve always said there are places where it is appropriate to mine and places it is not. The Whiskey Mountain range is a good example. We need to manage the land using the best science to achieve the greatest good in the longest term. In the Whiskey Mountain Bighorn Sheep Winter Range, that means prioritizing sheep migration. We have a unique opportunity to position our nation for 100 years of conservation stewardship, and we can begin to do so with steps like the one we are taking today.”

Secretary Zinke's February 9, 2018, [Secretarial Order 3362](#) to conserve big game winter range and migration corridors seeks to improve wildlife management and conservation and expand

opportunities for hunting by improving priority habitats within migration corridors across the West. Improving these areas also improves habitat for other species, like sage-grouse.

Whiskey Mountain Bighorn Sheep Winter Range supports one of the largest wintering herds of Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep in North America and draws thousands of people annually. For nearly 50 years, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Wyoming Game and Fish Department, and the U.S. Forest Service have coordinated the management and enhancement of bighorn sheep and their habitat on Whiskey Mountain. The proposed extension will withdraw 1,431 acres of Federal land from location or entry under the U.S. mining laws, but not from leasing under the mineral leasing laws. Public land order 7434 established this withdrawal in 2000 and will expire unless the mineral withdraw is extended. The public land order that established this withdrawal in 2000 will expire unless the mineral withdrawal is extended.

“Whiskey Mountain provides critical winter range for America’s largest bighorn sheep herd,” **said President and CEO, National Wildlife Federation Collin O’Mara.** “We appreciate the Secretary's steps to ensure this remarkable herd will remain protected from development that would harm it.”

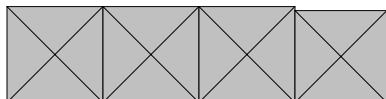
“An extended mineral withdrawal of more than 1,000 acres in the Whiskey Mountain area would facilitate management of the largest wintering concentration of bighorn sheep in North America by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Forest Service,” **said President and CEO of the Wild Sheep Foundation Gray N. Thornton.** “Secretary Zinke has repeatedly stated his conservation approach is to strike a balance between resource protection and development; protection of this important bighorn sheep habitat in Wyoming is a great example of that approach.”

A notice announcing the proposed mineral withdrawal extension was published in the *Federal Register* on April 25, 2018, beginning a 90-day public comment period. Comments on the proposed extension, or requests for a public meeting to discuss the extension, should be received by July 25, 2018 and submitted to the BLM Wyoming State Director, [5353 Yellowstone Road, Cheyenne, Wyoming, 82009.](#)

For more information, please contact Michael Hogan, BLM Wyoming State Office realty officer, at 307-775-6257 or Leta Rinker, BLM Lander Field Office realty specialist, at 307-332-8405.

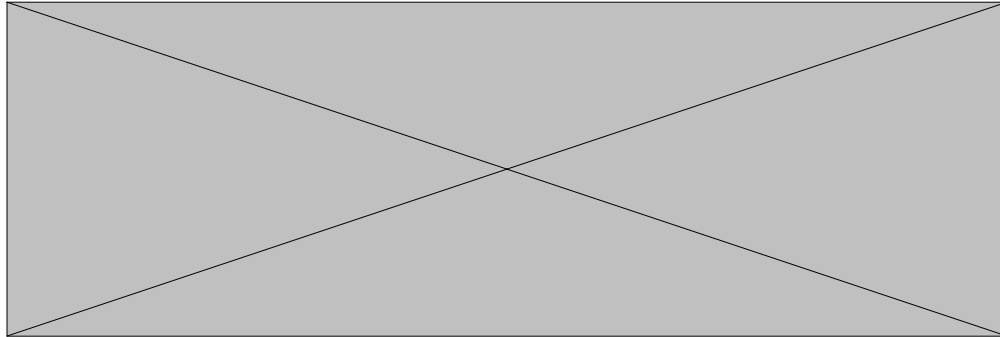
To learn more [watch this video.](#)

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From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-04-26T13:59:21-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Interior Issues \$188 Million in Energy Revenues to Fund Conservation and Storm Prep
Received: 2018-04-26T13:59:55-04:00

American energy dominance....



Date: April 26, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Interior Issues \$188 Million in Energy Revenues to Fund Conservation and Storm Prep

GOMESA Phase-II disbursements will fund important coastal conservation, restoration and hurricane protection projects

WASHINGTON – Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke announced the Department will disburse almost \$188 million to the four Gulf oil and gas producing states – Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas, and their coastal political subdivisions (CPS). This represents the first disbursement under Phase II of the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (GOMESA). The funds are derived from qualified oil and gas leasing revenues on the Outer Continental Shelf, and disbursed in accordance with the revenue-sharing provisions of the GOMESA legislation.

“Under President Trump’s America-First energy strategy, we’ve increased energy revenue by a billion dollars nationally in the first year alone, which creates more funding for important conservation projects in the Gulf” **said Secretary Zinke**. “Offshore energy production means less oil needed from foreign countries and more jobs for the American people. This \$188 million will be dedicated to coastal restoration and other projects important to many communities in the Gulf.”

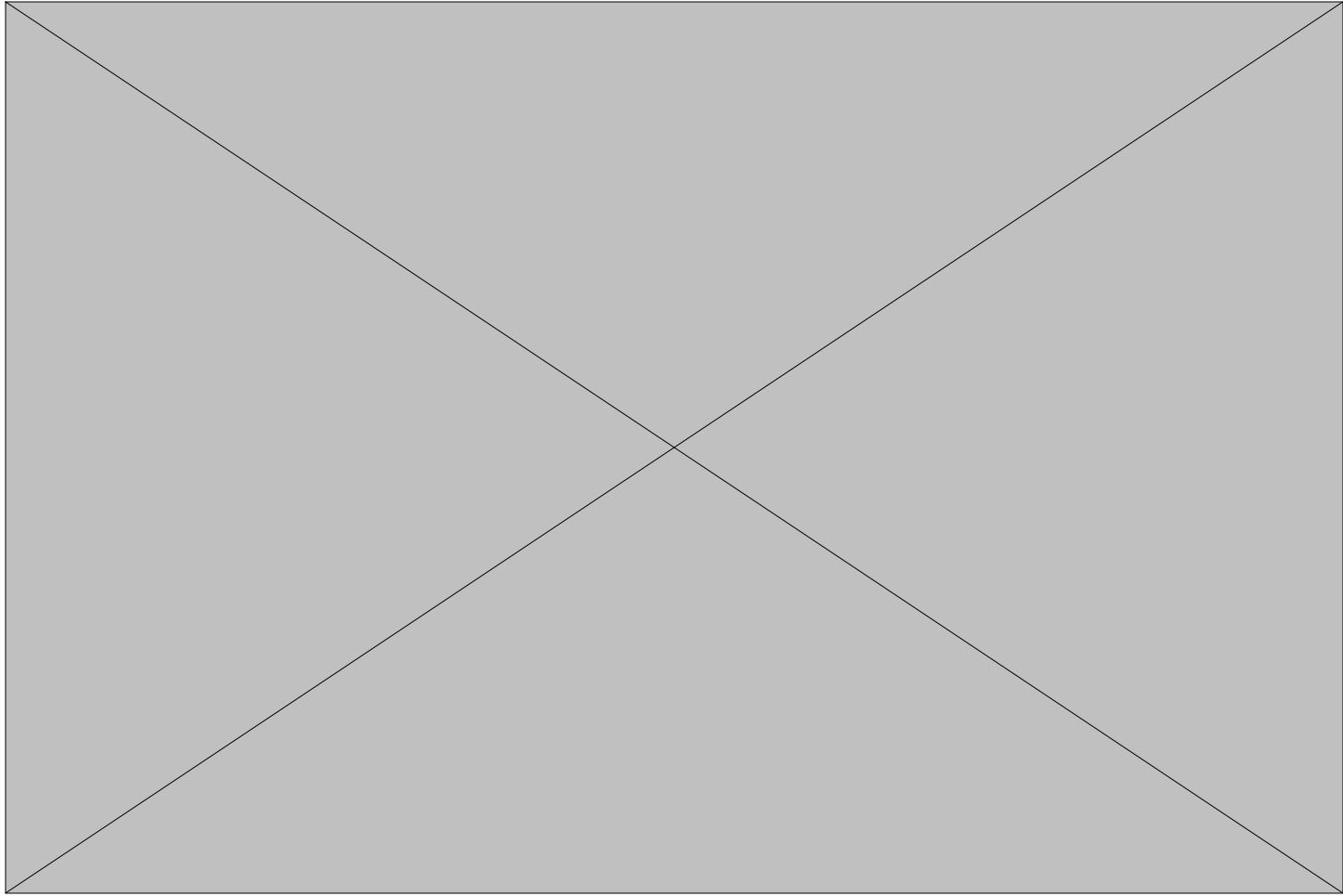
“I am pleased to receive the GOMESA distribution that is derived from the oil and gas exploration in the federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico,” **said Alabama Governor Kay Ivey**. “As one of the four Gulf producing states, Alabama will use these funds wisely to protect,

restore and provide public access to natural resources in our beautiful state. I appreciate the work of Congress, through GOMESA, to share these revenues with the areas most affected by Outer Continental Shelf activities.”

“Mississippi is working hard to maximize our energy resources to help lower costs for the consumer and make America energy independent,” **said Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant.** “This funding will help initiate projects to improve our water quality and enhance the blue economy of our Gulf Coast. I am grateful to Secretary Zinke and everyone else who made this disbursement a reality.”

“The people of Louisiana have waited for over ten years for Phase II of GOMESA to begin and for our state to start receiving a larger portion of the revenues derived off of our coast,” **said Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards.** “This revenue stream is one we have planned our coastal program around, and we are happy to finally be able to put it to use to help address our land loss crisis. A healthy coast is absolutely essential to a healthy oil and gas industry in Louisiana, as well as our economy overall. The dedication of these funds to address our coastal issues is the smartest investment we can make.”

“As the State of Texas continues to recover from the damage and devastating flooding that impacted 240 miles of Texas coastline, we are grateful for the GOMESA funds that will help strengthen and restore the state’s vibrant coastal region,” **said Texas Governor Greg Abbott.** “We look forward to using these funds for projects that reinforce our conservation and restoration efforts, and will allow generations of Texans to enjoy.”



“More of Louisiana’s coast disappears every day,” **said Senator John Neely Kennedy (R-LA).** “I am glad to finally see these GOMESA dollars coming in. This money will help us restore our beautiful coast so that we can continue to provide oil, natural gas and seafood to the rest of the nation. We need every penny that we can get to fight coastal erosion and protect our coastal communities. As the oil industry becomes more robust, I expect this revenue to increase even more.”

“This funding will help restore and protect Louisiana’s coasts, and thanks to the tax reform law we passed, our state stands to receive tens of millions of dollars more for these important projects,” **said Senator Bill Cassidy, M.D. (R-LA).** “I thank Secretary Zinke for his leadership and support of GOMESA, which will make a difference in Louisiana for generations to come.”

“This distribution of GOMESA funds demonstrates the importance of American energy independence,” **said Congressman Pete Olson (R-TX), Vice Chair of the Energy Subcommittee.** “The benefits it brings to our nation and the Gulfcoast community both economically and by powering our nation through energy are a win-win all around. I appreciate the collaboration of the federal, state and local governments in reaching this revenue sharing agreement and thank President Trump and Secretary Zinke for their leadership on this critical issue.”

“Revenue generated from offshore oil and gas leases is critically important to Alabama’s Gulf Coast, and I appreciate Secretary Zinke and the Trump Administration for their commitment to our coastal communities,” **said Congressman Bradley Byrne (R-AL)**. “I have consistently fought to protect this revenue source, which is put to use on important conservation and infrastructure projects along the Gulf Coast.”

“This is great news for the Mississippi Gulf Coast,” **said Congressman Steven Palazzo (R-MS)**. “The Phase II funding of GOMESA will be directly used for much needed coastal conservation, restoration, and hurricane protection. In 2020, we can look forward to an even larger increase in funding that we were able to secure as part of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act bill due, in no small part, to the hard work and support of Secretary Zinke, President Trump’s administration, and our Leadership in the House.”

The \$188 million to be disbursed in FY 2018 is over five times more than the total amount disbursed to states and CPS during the entirety of Phase I of GOMESA, extending from FY 2009 through FY 2017. The increase in disbursements is attributable to the significant increase in the number of leases included under Phase II and the revenues these generated. Approximately \$37 million was shared by states and coastal political subdivisions from the Phase I.

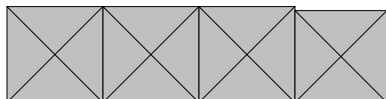
During FY 2017, Interior’s Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) disbursed approximately \$67 million to the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and almost \$268 million to the U.S. Treasury from bonuses, rentals, and royalties paid for GOMESA leases. As required by the legislation, disbursements to the LWCF and Treasury are made in the same year of receipt; disbursements to the states and CPS are made the year following the year of receipt.

Revenue-sharing allocations and disbursement detail for the FY 2017 receipts will be published April 26, 2018, on the ONNR website at: <https://www.onrr.gov>.

GOMESA payments are subject to sequestration requirements under the Budget Control Act of 2011.

Interior’s Office of Natural Resources Revenue manages and ensures full payment of revenues owed for the development of the nation’s energy and natural resources on the Outer Continental Shelf and onshore Federal and Indian lands. In performing this important fiduciary role, ONRR collects an average of over \$10 billion dollars in annual revenue -- one of the Federal government's largest sources of non-tax revenue.

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From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-04-27T11:38:33-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Wild Horse and Burro Report to Congress
Received: 2018-04-27T11:39:08-04:00
FINAL Report to Congress - BLM Wild Horse and Burro Program.pdf

Esteemed Colleagues,

Those receiving this email have either expressed interest in getting more involved with the Wild Horse & Burros issue or I thought this report would be of interest to you.

This report gives extensive background and is extremely informative. It also provides 4 options for addressing the situation through different management plans. Please remember that this report is meant to be informative.

Yet with that said, the fourth of these options may be the approach most heavily favored by the administration and stakeholders alike. There is no such thing as a perfect answer to this problem, however the previous years of inaction is no longer acceptable and action must be taken.

After many months of receiving input and serious consideration, a meeting yesterday with various high level organizations felt that option 4 was something they could all support. Your support and research on this topic would be much appreciated and better educating the public on this issue is also of great importance.

Please feel free to call me with any questions you may have.

Thank you,

Jason Funes
Special Assistant
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5541

Report to Congress

Management Options for a Sustainable Wild Horse and Burro Program



Executive Summary

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is providing this report, in accordance with the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-31), to improve the management of wild horses and burros on the Western public rangelands. Since receiving Federal protection in 1971, wild horse and burro populations on public lands have dramatically increased, far exceeding what is healthy for the land and the animals. The BLM is committed to finding solutions to achieve long-term sustainable populations on the range in a humane manner.

Today the BLM manages and protects our Nation's wild horses and burros on 26.9 million acres of public lands in the West. The goal of the Wild Horse and Burro Program is to ensure healthy wild horses and burros on thriving public rangelands. The 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act, as amended, contains a variety of tools for managing herd numbers. However, current congressional appropriation riders prohibit the BLM from using all the authorities available in the Act. Specifically, Congress blocks the sale of wild horses and burros without limitation and has limited the use of euthanasia.

The BLM retains the ability to gather the animals from the range, but then must care for them until they are adopted or sold. If the animals are not adopted or sold, the BLM is required to care for them for the remainder of their lives. The cost of holding and caring for these animals off-range has increased substantially in recent years and remains the largest component of the program's budget. In Fiscal Year 2017, for example, the BLM spent nearly 60 percent of its \$81.0 million budget on the care of animals removed from the range. That's nearly \$48,000 for one unadopted horse that remains in BLM's care over its lifetime. The cost of caring for the 46,000 unadopted and unsold animals currently in holding will top \$1.0 billion over their lifetimes.

In establishing the "Appropriate Management Level" (AML) for wild horses and burros on the public lands, the BLM uses scientific principles of rangeland management to determine the population of wild horses and burros that the habitat can sustain. The BLM seeks to protect the rangeland, soil, water, and vegetation resources in balance with other uses, including ranching, hunting, recreation, and wildlife habitat. The national AML for wild horses and burros is a total of 26,715 animals across 10 western states. At the end of 2017, the BLM determined these public lands were home to nearly 83,000 wild horses and burros, more than three times the national AML.

Wild horses and burros have no natural predators and herds can double in size every 4 years. As herd sizes increase, the forage and water resources from the land become depleted, resulting in starvation, dehydration, and death. In their search for food and water, the animals often move onto private land or along highways resulting in safety issues and habitat destruction for horses and humans alike. Public-land ranchers have cut back on grazing to accommodate increasing numbers of wild horses and burros.

The current overpopulation of wild horses and burros threatens the overall health of the western rangelands, degrading ecosystem functions and limiting the forage and water available for domestic and wildlife species, including game and nongame species. For example, overgrazing by wild horses and burros has reduced sagebrush and grass cover vital to Greater Sage-Grouse and has resulted in lower survival rates in those areas. Overpopulated herds have displaced native species including pronghorn, deer, elk, and bighorn sheep. Across the Great Basin, areas with wild horses have less plant cover, fewer native plants, and more unpalatable and invasive plant species, including cheatgrass, compared to areas without wild horses.

If wild horse and burro populations continue to expand, the impacts to animal and plant species will grow more severe across even larger swaths of the western public rangelands. The damaging environmental effects may soon become irreversible and large die-offs of wild horses/burros and multiple species of plants and other animals could begin. The groundwork for this unacceptable outcome has been developing for some time, and certain areas have already experienced damaging effects of overpopulation. As rangeland health has decreased, animals have died due to a lack of water and forage. The most inhumane and costly solution is to continue to take no decisive action.

This report details four options for addressing the reality of the situation and improving the management of wild horses and burros over the long term.

Option I: This option focuses on achieving national AML in 8 years, while reducing off-range holding costs dramatically over the first 4 years. In addition, during the first 4 years, the BLM would achieve AML in Herd Management Areas (HMAs) that overlap priority habitat for multiple species. This would require making use of all legal authorities contained in the Act (especially sale without limitation and euthanasia of unadopted or unsold animals), including use of contraceptives and limited sterilization techniques.

Under this option, the national AML of 26,715 wild horses and burros would be achieved in 2026.

Option II: This option focuses on achieving national AML in 10 years using contraceptive fertility control treatments such as Porcine Zona Pellucida (PZP) and minimal permanent sterilization of mares or stallions. Current operations to dart mares with a contraceptive in HMAs would continue, where this option is effective. Under this option, the off-range costs of caring for animals would significantly increase over current levels, because of increased reliance on off-range care. Due to the large numbers of animals being held in off-range facilities, the cost of this option could be greatly affected by changes in the cost of contracting for off-range pastures, as the BLM would need more facility space than is currently available. The costs reflected in this option depend upon identifying partners who are willing and able to provide low-cost, off-range housing for excess animals. In addition, as in Option III, the BLM or its partners would attempt to secure lower cost, pasture-based holding facilities in lieu of short-term corrals that resemble livestock feedlots and cost twice as much as pasture facilities.

Under this option, the national AML of 26,715 wild horses and burros would be achieved in 2028.

Option III: This option focuses on achieving national AML in 6 years using an aggressive removal operation in conjunction with sterilization of 3,000 mares and stallions gathered annually, and later returned to the range. Current operations to dart mares with a contraceptive in some HMAs would continue. Under this option, far fewer animals would be gathered and returned to the range than Option II, and all of those animals would be sterile upon reintroduction. Animals that are gathered and not sterilized would be moved to off-range facilities. As the off-range population increases, keeping control of holding costs will require continually acquiring additional low-cost contracted pasture space to alleviate the need to keep animals in expensive short-term corrals. The BLM would strive to keep corral populations to minimum levels necessary to supply the adoption pipeline.

Current research on long-term contraceptives would continue, with the possibility of greater use of contraceptives in the future should a longer-acting agent prove to be effective. It should be noted that the additional demand for long-term pastures could significantly increase program costs over current levels until AML is achieved, at which point costs would begin to decline.

Finally, under this option the BLM would institute a program to increase adoptions by providing a monetary incentive to the adopter of up to \$1,000. While this would increase costs in the initial years, it will quickly pay for itself by lowering off-range holding expenditures.

Under this option, the national AML of 26,715 wild horses and burros would be achieved in 2024.

Option IV: This option would achieve national AML in 2030 by using an aggressive effort to gather, sterilize, and return wild horses and burros to the range, while also developing the same adoption incentives described in Option III. The BLM would hire veterinarians to sterilize and return approximately 18,000 animals per year in each of the first 5 years and 8,000 in year 6. Under this option, off-range populations would begin to decrease almost immediately through natural mortality and continued efforts for private care placement. In addition, the total number of animals removed each year would be less than the annual adoption/sale levels, keeping down costs in the out years. In fact, program costs would be reduced to less than current levels in the seventh year. By the tenth year, off-range populations would begin to decline even faster through natural mortality in BLM's contracted off-range pastures, as almost all animals held in those pastures would reach normal lifespan limits.

Fertility control treatments would focus on permanent sterilization through FY24 when more than 80 percent of the animals on the range would be permanently sterilized. Sterilizing this number of animals for 6 years would take high levels of coordination in all areas of the BLM, including updating our environmental analysis, contracting for services, and training personnel. There is a distinct risk that the BLM might need to hold and care for the animals gathered in the initial year for longer than planned to achieve these totals, which would increase costs in the first year above stated levels. At the same time, if this were to occur, the BLM would continue all efforts to increase adoptions to not only reduce holding costs, but also reduce the need to sterilize animals and return them to the range. However, once the environmental analysis is complete and the service contracts are in place, the BLM could effectively implement the plan. Current research on long-term contraceptives would continue, with the possibility of reducing the need for permanent sterilization and increasing the use of contraceptives in the future should a longer-acting agent prove to be effective.

Finally, under this option, the BLM would institute a program to increase adoptions by providing a monetary incentive to the adopter of up to \$1,000. If the incentive proves to increase adoptions beyond the planned 5,000, the BLM could decrease the use of permanent sterilization and increase removals to match adoption/sale totals. While this incentive would increase costs in the initial years, it will quickly pay for itself by lowering off-range holding expenditures.

Under this option, the national AML of 26,715 wild horses and burros would be achieved in 2030.

Regardless of which option is chosen, the BLM will need the help of all stakeholders – Congress, livestock operators, state and local governments, and public interest organizations – to solve the wild horse and burro overpopulation challenge. The BLM is open to working with partners on common sense solutions and will continue to pursue collaboration where possible.

Background

The BLM's mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of America's public lands for the multiple use and enjoyment of present and future generations. To implement this mission, the BLM must ensure the health of America's public lands for the species and multiple uses depending on them, including the Nation's wild horses and burros. As directed by Congress under the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971, as amended (Act), the BLM protects and manages the wild horses and burros that roam 26.9 million acres of Western public rangelands. For more information about the history of the BLM's wild horse and burro program and a full, amended text of the Act, refer to: <https://www.blm.gov/programs/wild-horse-and-burro/about-the-program/program-history>.

The Act requires the BLM to "manage wild free-roaming horses and burros in a manner that is designed to achieve and maintain a thriving natural ecological balance on the public lands," and if the BLM determines that an overpopulation exists and action is necessary to remove excess animals, to "immediately remove [them] from the range so as to achieve appropriate management levels." The Act defines excess animals as "wild free-roaming horses or burros (1) which have been removed from an area by the Secretary pursuant to law or, (2) which must be removed from an area in order to preserve and maintain a thriving natural ecological balance and multiple-use relationship in that area." After excess animals are removed from the range, the Act authorizes disposal through adoption, sale, and euthanasia. For more than a decade, Congress has used appropriation riders to block both the unrestricted sale and euthanasia of wild horses and burros.

When Congress first passed the Act in 1971, it found that wild horses and burros warranted legal protection. Now, 46 years after that law was enacted, wild horses and burros are experiencing population levels that are unsustainable for the animals and the range.



A wild horse mare and foal in very poor condition because of lack of forage just outside Las Vegas, Nevada in August 2015. *Photo by BLM.*



An enclosure shows the negative impacts of wild horse over-grazing of rangeland resources. *Photo by BLM.*

America's Wild Horse and Burro Challenge

Herd Management Areas (HMAs) are areas where wild horse and burro herds were known to exist at time of enactment of the Act and that have been designated for wild horse and burro management through BLM's land use planning process. For each HMA, the BLM has determined the appropriate management level (AML) by applying principles of rangeland management and wildlife biology through a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review process. These reviews are the process by which the BLM establishes the number of horses and burros that can exist in an HMA, while also protecting rangeland, soil, water, and vegetation resources in balance with other multiple uses.

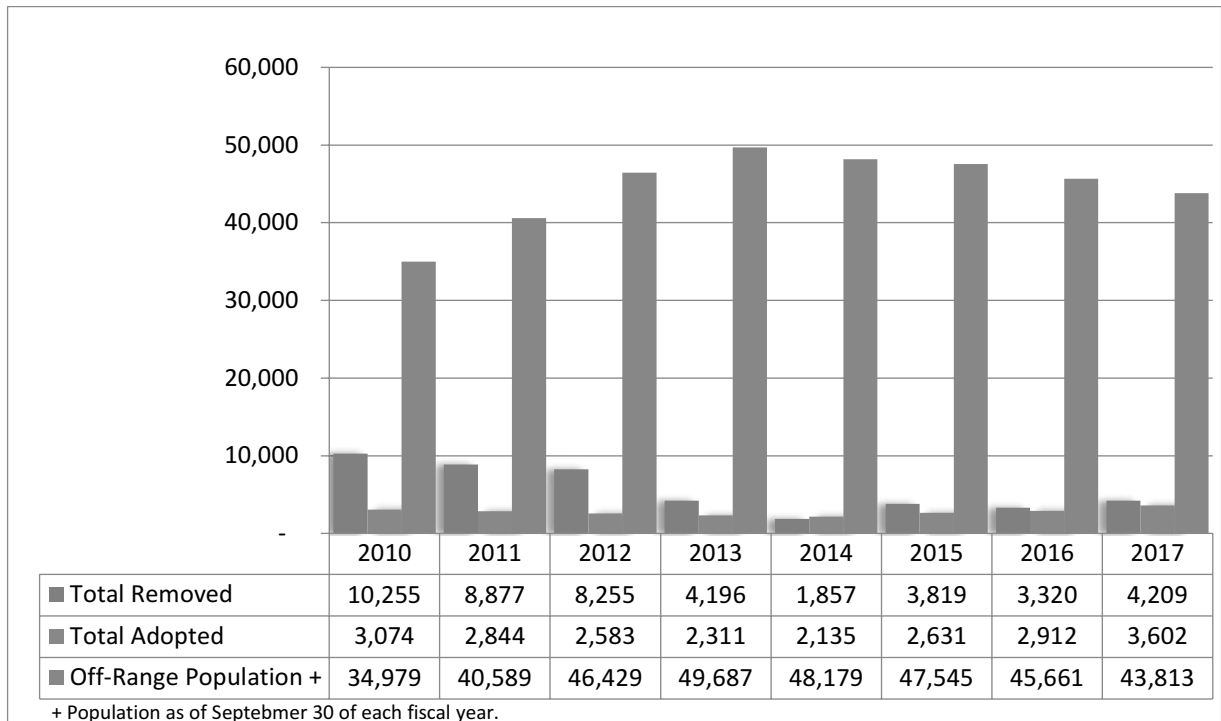
Current populations of wild horses and burros far exceed the established AML in most HMAs. The national AML for wild horses and burros is 26,715 animals in 10 western states. As of the end of 2017, however, public lands were home to approximately 73,000 adult wild horses and burros, plus an estimated 13,000 foals, for a total of 86,000 animals.



Wild horses crossing the road in Antelope Valley HMA in NV. *Photo by BLM.*

Based on existing research, wild horse herds increase 15 to 20 percent annually and can double in size in just 4 or 5 years. The herds have no natural predators. Current methods of fertility control have shown limited success, and even then only in smaller herds that are already at or near AML. Further compounding the challenge, the number of adoptions have not kept pace with the number of horses that the BLM has needed to remove from the range (refer to Chart 1).

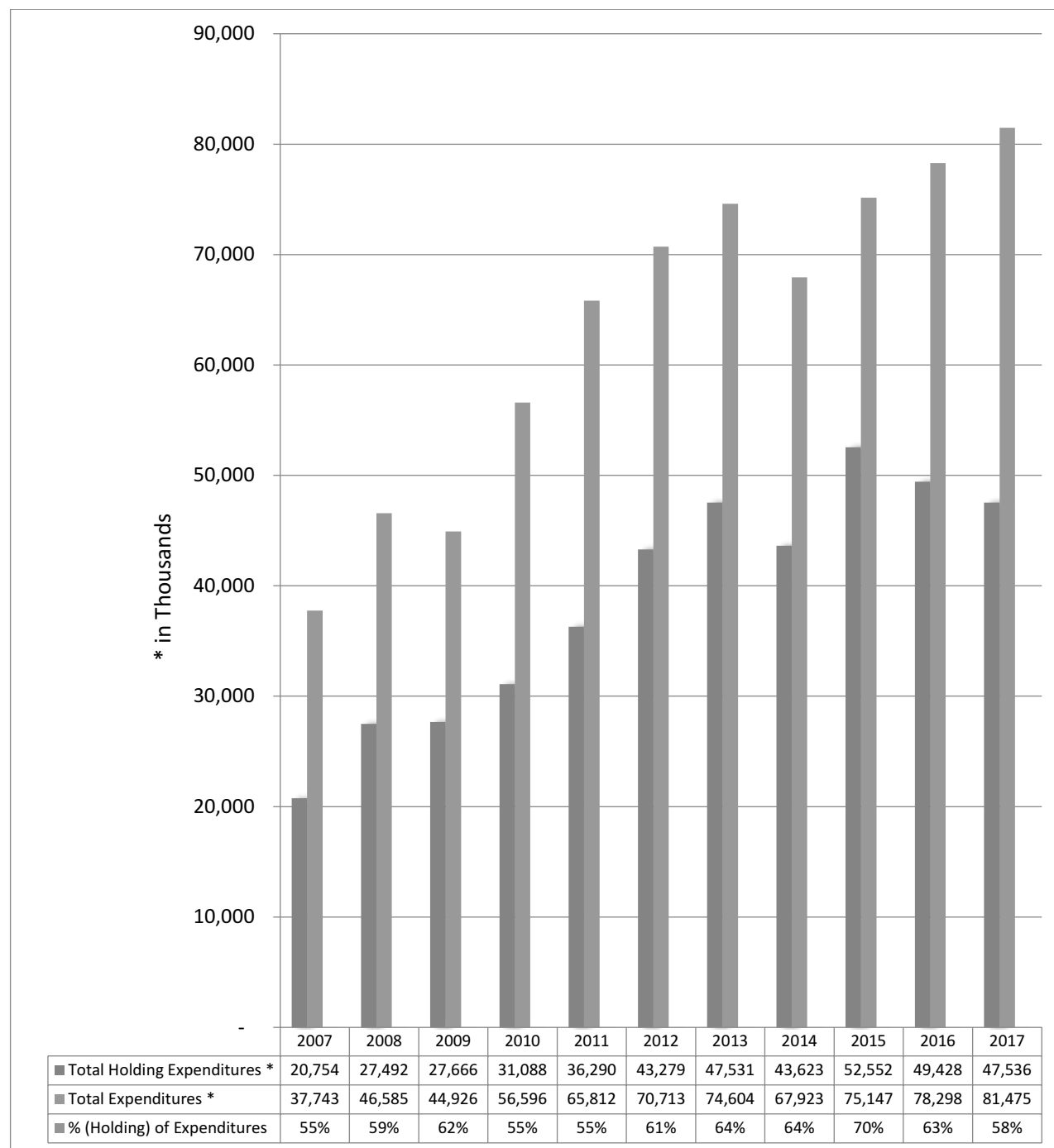
Chart 1 - Wild Horses and Burros Removed/Adopted and Off-Range Population (FY10-FY17)



Off-range, the BLM is currently caring for about 46,000 unadopted and unsold animals, including about 11,000 in 27 BLM corrals (facilities with a capacity for holding and caring for nearly 23,000 animals until adopted, sold, or transported to off-range pastures) and about 35,000 in 30 contracted private pastures (primarily in Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, and Oklahoma with a capacity of almost 38,000). These are the more productive pastures of the Midwest, and animals there tend to live longer compared to wild horses on the range.

The total cost of operating off-range holding facilities is nearly \$48 million annually, accounting for nearly 60 percent of the BLM’s Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 budget for the wild horse and burro program (refer to Chart 2). This cost, relative to the overall program budget, results in less funding to gather and remove excess horses and burros, causing the on-range population of wild horses and burros to continue to grow.

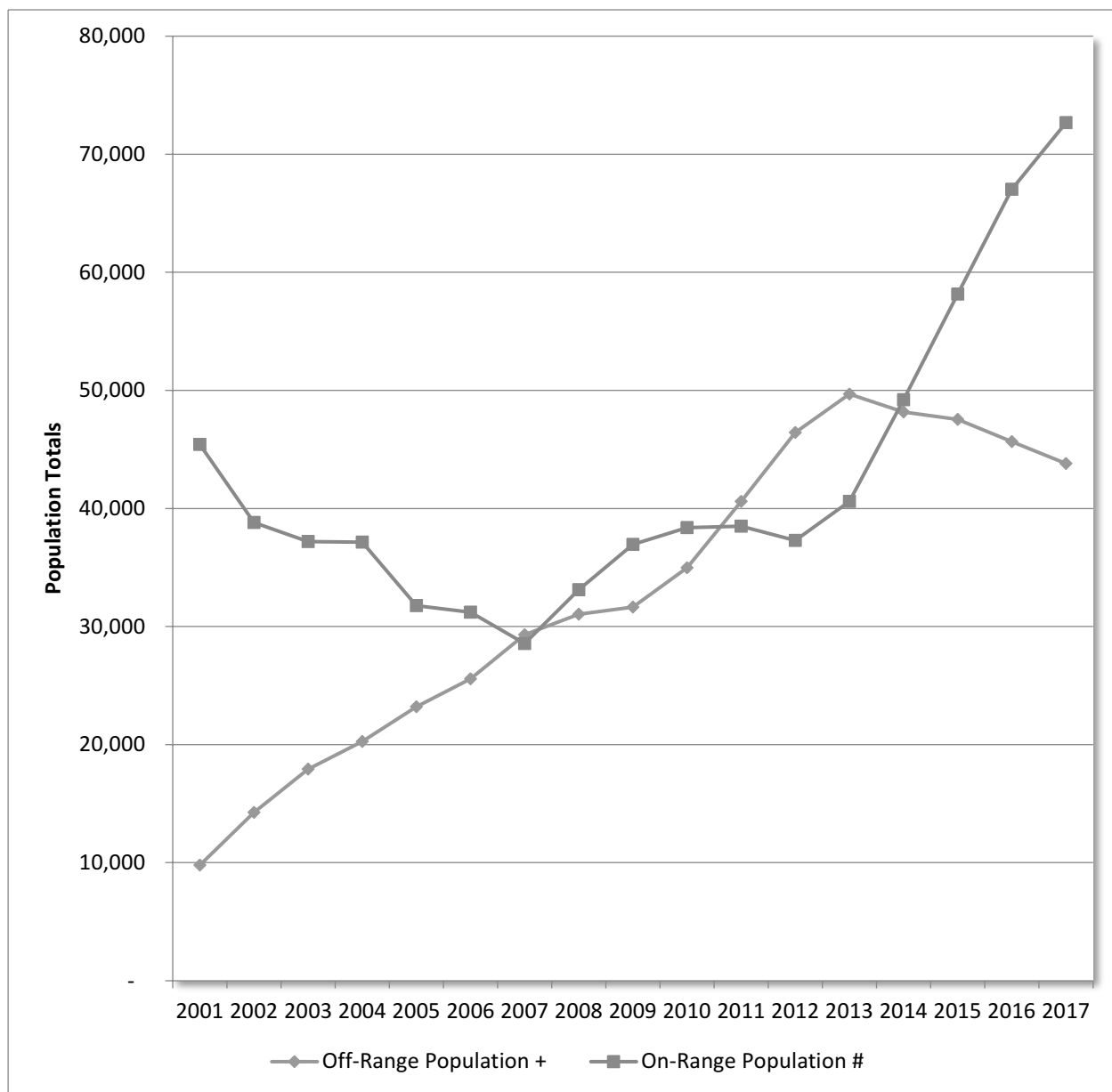
Chart 2 - Holding Costs Compared to BLM’s Total Expenditures for the Wild Horse and Burro Program (FY07-FY17).



From 2013 through 2016, the on-range population nearly doubled (refer to Chart 3). This trend is

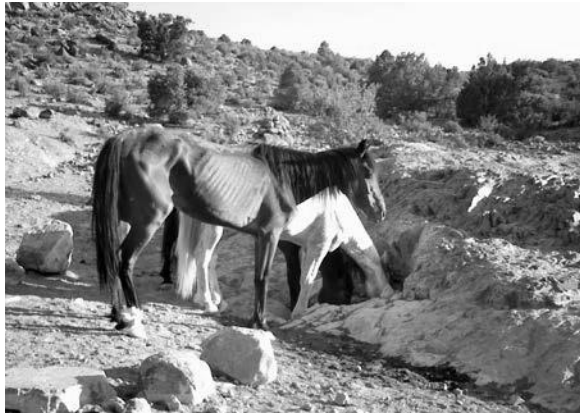
expected to continue unless removals are increased. As currently managed, by the summer of 2019 there will likely be well over 100,000 wild horses on BLM-managed land, with up to 20,000 more the year after.

Chart 3 - Wild Horse and Burro Populations On/Off Range (FY01-FY17)



Overpopulated herds are already having a negative impact on the health of the range and on the health of the wild horses and burros themselves.

Western rangelands have limited forage production capability—soils are often shallow and moisture is limited. The current overpopulation of wild horses and burros on the arid rangelands of the West threaten the health of the western rangelands and the quality and quantity of forage and water available for domestic and wildlife species, including game and nongame species, as well as federal and state threatened, endangered, and sensitive species.

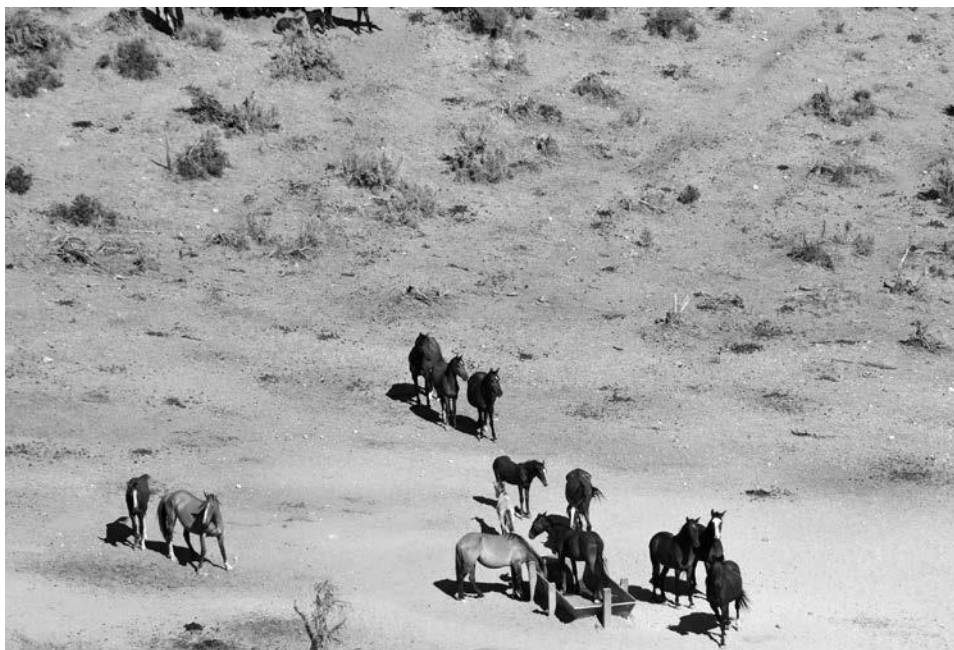


Wild horses in poor condition at a degraded spring in Nevada's Seaman HMA, July 2013. *Photo by BLM,*



Two thin wild horses in the Goshute Herd Management Area, September 2016. *Photo by BLM.*

Impacts to a variety of species will grow more severe across even larger swaths of the western public rangelands if populations continue to expand. America is nearing the time when the devastating effects of wild horse and burro overpopulation become irreversible and large die-offs of wild horses/burros and multiple species of plants and other animals could begin. The groundwork for this unacceptable outcome has been developing for some time, and certain areas have already experienced damaging effects of overpopulation. As rangeland health has decreased, animals have died due to a lack of water and forage.



The Maverick-Medicine HMA in Nevada has very limited water and was 474 percent over the AML as of March 1, 2017. The BLM conducted an emergency gather to remove 60 horses in 2016 to rescue the horses and relieve demand on Cherry Spring. Pictured is a group of horses at Cherry Spring in August 2017 waiting for water to come to the trough. *Photo by BLM.*

Impacts to Greater Sage-Grouse and Native Ungulates

A 2017 USDA report stated that wild horse presence can have broad effects on ecosystem function in the sagebrush biome.¹ Another scientific study determined that wild horses and burros are a present and widespread threat in 10 of 29 Greater Sage-Grouse populations in the western portion of the bird's range.² In the Great Basin, areas with wild horses had less shrub cover, plant cover, species richness, native plant cover, and overall plant biomass, and more unpalatable and invasive plant species, including cheatgrass, compared to areas without horses.^{3,4} Grazing by wild horses can have severe impacts on water source quality, aquatic ecosystems, and riparian communities that may be important for Greater Sage-Grouse. Greater Sage-Grouse survival rates are lower in areas of reduced sagebrush, grass, and for cover, so wild horse overgrazing can influence conservation and restoration efforts for that species. At water sources, wild horses displace native ungulates including pronghorn antelope, deer, and elk.⁵

Public Involvement

The BLM has a long history of involving the public in the management of wild horses and burros. In preparing this report, the BLM considered the public opinions (see Appendix 3, Public Opinion) already expressed in the previous strategic planning efforts, NEPA documents, editorials, legal actions, letters, and other materials and forums generated over many years of interacting with the public, interest groups, and state and local governments. It is important to note that the public will continue to be involved in the BLM's management of wild horses and burros on a regular basis as site-specific actions, such as gathers and fertility control, are planned and implemented.

The National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board

The BLM's National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board consists of representatives from multiple interest groups and the public. Board members represent various interests: wild horse and burro advocacy groups, wild horse and burro research institutions, veterinarians, natural resource organizations, humane advocacy groups, wildlife associations, and livestock organizations, plus the general public with a special knowledge of equine behavior. The Board meets periodically to discuss program challenges and make recommendations for the BLM to consider.

At a meeting in September 2016, the Board recommended that the BLM offer for sale without limitation all suitable animals in long- and short-term holding which are deemed unadoptable. Those animals that remain unsold would then be destroyed in the most humane manner possible. In addition, at the most recent meeting in October 2017, the Board offered the following recommendations for future wild horse and burro management. The Board recommended that the BLM:

¹ Chambers, J.C. et al. 2017. Science framework for conservation and restoration of the sagebrush biome. Part 1. Science basis and applications. USDA General Technical Report RMRS-GTR-360.

² USFWS. 2013. Greater Sage-Grouse conservation objectives: final report. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Denver, Colorado. February 2013.

³ Beever, E.A. and C.L. Aldridge. 2011. Influences of free-roaming equids on sagebrush ecosystems, with focus on Greater Sage-Grouse. *Studies in Avian Biology* 38:273-290.

⁴ Davies, K.W. et al. 2014. Effects of free-roaming horses on semi-arid rangeland ecosystems: an example from the sagebrush steppe. *Ecosphere* 5:1-14.

⁵ Hall, L.K. et al. 2016. Influence of exotic horses on the use of water by communities of native wildlife in a semi-arid environment. *Journal of Arid Environments* 127:100-105.

1. Phase out long-term holding over the next 3 years and apply that budget to on-range management and adoptions.
2. Create funding mechanisms to maximize adoptions and or sales, especially through successful programs, and to include international adoptions and/or sales.
3. Increase funding for reversible fertility control by \$3 million in FY 2019.
4. Immediately (within the next 3 years) address overpopulation by removing animals from the range to achieve AML in accordance with the Act.
5. Use the help and assistance of all state and local agencies, organizations, and individuals in achieving AML.
6. Maintain AML by using fertility control to slow population growth at levels where removals equal the adoption demand.
7. Adjust AML where appropriate.

The 2017 National Wild Horse and Burro Summit

The State of Utah, Utah State University, the Berryman Institute, and the Wild Sheep Foundation co-hosted a summit in Salt Lake City, Utah on August 22-24, 2017. The goal of the summit was “full implementation of the 1971 Wild Horse and Burro Management Act (Act).” Participation included representatives of state, local, and tribal governments, academia, public land users, conservation groups, wildlife interest groups, and Federal agencies.

The workshop included a tour to view on-the-ground management issues and sessions on wild horse and burro policy, legal matters, science, and best management practices. Participants shared their preferences regarding the future management of BLM’s wild horse and burro program. Options 1 and 2 within this document are generally consistent with the preferences of the majority of the participants. Those preferences are shown in Attachment 1.

Consultation with Outside Groups

The Humane Society of the United States, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Return to Freedom, and the American Mustang Foundation, all advocate for a management approach founded on the following principles:

- Conduct removals to quickly achieve AML and initially focus on those areas of most immediate concern due to potential conflicts with native wildlife, rangeland degradation, and human-horse conflict;
- After AML achievement, implement aggressive fertility control and continue wherever feasible to prevent the need for future large scale removals;
- Horses removed from the range must be relocated into large cost-effective pasture holding facilities, and where possible, public-private partnerships with landowners and non-profits must be pursued; and
- Promote adoptions with better marketing and support from partner organizations to increase adoptions and reduce captive populations and costs.

Other Considerations

Population Growth Suppression: While fertility control methods will decrease the number of new horses and burros born each year, the only way to immediately and significantly reduce the on-range population is to gather and remove excess horses and burros. At the same time, the BLM believes that fertility control vaccines and sterilization are important tools to help maintain AML once it has been achieved.

Given the scope and scale of the current overpopulation, significantly reducing the population growth rate of wild horses and burros through application of currently available fertility control vaccines would not be logistically feasible as there are 35,000 to 40,000 mares on the range that would need to be gathered, mostly using helicopters, and treated every year. However, the BLM recognizes that permanent sterilization techniques would be a more effective long-term solution to controlling population growth than currently available vaccines. Under all options, the BLM will utilize permanent sterilization techniques to take advantages of this fact. Darting is effective as a means to administer fertility control vaccines, but only in limited situations in certain smaller HMAs where the wild horse population is at or near the AML and the horses can be approached within about 40 yards on a regular schedule.

In a breeding population, the majority of the adult males and females in the population participate in breeding and add to herd growth. A single stallion (male) usually breeds about 6 to 8 mares (females) a year in his own harem but has the capability of siring 50 or more foals in a year if he has access to the mares. An adult mare can produce a foal every year if she is healthy and in good condition. Typically, about 70 percent of the mares in a herd have a foal each year. When breeding age mares are replaced by sterilized animals—whether they are geldings (castrated males) or spayed females—the overall size of the herd can remain the same while the portion of the herd that is actively breeding and contributing to population growth is reduced. Fewer breeding females in the herd means fewer foals and slower population growth, however just replacing breeding stallions with geldings will not have an appreciable effect on population growth. In this scenario, with a “non-reproducing component,” the herd can still be a thriving, reproducing herd. However, the advantage is the reproducing component of the herd is smaller and the non-reproducing animals in the herd simply live out their lives on the range as free-roaming animals that do not participate in population growth.

No single population growth suppression tool is universally appropriate for all HMAs. As AML is achieved in various HMAs, a variety of fertility control methods will need to be used. Research continues into creating longer-lasting vaccines and developing new methods of contraception. The BLM will deploy fertility control methods that are more effective if their development is successful and application is cost-effective, which could significantly decrease the need for gathers over time.

Limits on Gather Operations: Due to the size of many HMAs, the distribution of animals on the HMAs, the logistics of gather operations, the availability of contractors, and the operational capability to manage animals in BLM’s off-range corrals, there is a limit to the number of animals that can be gathered and removed in any single year. The BLM estimates the maximum number of horses and burros that could be gathered and removed is about 20,000 animals annually. For the longer-term (year 10), the BLM estimates that fewer than 4,000 animals would be gathered and removed annually under any of the options outlined in this report. The BLM is looking at ways to increase capacity for both gather operations and managing those animals in off-range facilities.

Adoption Incentive Program: To increase the number of animals placed into private care, one of the options presented in this report assumes that an incentive program will be developed to offer private care providers \$1,000 at the point of adoption, with proper controls. This will allow adopters to help defray expenses for care and training of adopted animals, and will increase the chances that the animals remain in private care for the rest of their lives. This investment would save money for the taxpayer and the BLM program in the first year of implementation alone. For instance, if that same adopted animal were instead held in a short-term holding facility, it would have cost the United States \$1,000 after only 200 days in captivity. Over a period of 25 years, holding that same animal in an off-range corral would have cost the taxpayers nearly \$46,000.

Intergovernmental and International Transfer of Animals: Due to the increased interest from private, non-government organizations as well as countries outside the US, an international program will be developed to allow the use of wild horses and burros for various purposes. These include border patrol, humanitarian efforts, or economic development. In its 2017 appropriations, the BLM received the authority to transfer animals to Federal, state, and local government agencies. However, other than selling animals, no authority exists under the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act to transfer wild horses and burros to private, non-government entities nor outside of the country.

Legal Authorities to Implement Options Presented in this Report

Each of the four options presented in this report would require new legal authorities, or benefit from clarified legal authorities. Included among those possible authorities are the following:

Sales without limitation and euthanasia. Given the scope of America's wild horse and burro challenge, the BLM has previously requested authority to implement the Act as amended (i.e., the ability to sell without limitation all excess wild horses and burros and euthanize horses for which an adoption demand does not exist). Returning authority to the BLM to sell wild horses and burros without limitation would help considerably, but this authority alone would not be sufficient.

Amendments to the Act. The following amendments to the Act would facilitate a more sustainable approach to the long-term management of wild horses and burros and help control costs over the long term. Amendments could consider one or more of the following, though not all of them are required to support the four options presented in this report.

1. Provide that animals that are sale-eligible, pursuant to the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act, are no longer subject to the protections of the Act, and should be offered for sale as soon as is practicable.
2. Stipulate that areas identified for long-term management may be managed as non-reproducing herds, in whole or part, through the use of surgical and/or chemical sterilization methods.
3. Lower the sale-eligibility age from older than 10 years to older than 5 years.
4. Eliminate the provision that limits an adopter to acquire title to only 4 animals per year.
5. Reduce the time to title an adopted wild horse and burro from 1 year to 6 months.
6. Provide a) for transfer of wild horses and burros to nonprofit organizations or other countries for humanitarian purposes or to promote economic development outside the United States, and b) that such transfer causes animals to lose their status as wild horses and burros under the Act.
7. Enable the BLM to redirect receipts from sales towards gathering and removing excess wild horses and burros from the range instead of using those funds for the adoption program.

8. Provide permanent authority to transfer excess wild horses or burros that have been removed from the public lands to other Federal, state, and local government agencies for use as work animals.

Categorical Exclusions from Detailed Review Under NEPA. Currently when planning for gather and removal operations and other management activities, such as administering fertility control, the BLM must conduct a lengthy environmental analysis process to comply with NEPA, typically through an environmental assessment (EA). These analyses are completed for either individual HMA or groups of HMAs (Complex). Development of the individual analysis documents can take hundreds of hours of staff time as well as periods of public involvement. The BLM has been writing these EA documents for over 40 years and BLM's decision-makers routinely conclude that the proposed actions would not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment (individually or cumulatively). NEPA regulations provide that categories of actions that individually or cumulatively do not have a significant effect on the human environment may be excluded from further environmental review through a "categorical exclusion." Thus, the BLM recommends that certain wild horse and burro management actions be categorically excluded from detailed NEPA analysis, specifically:

1. Removal of excess wild horses and burros utilizing helicopter, bait/water, and other trapping techniques for the achievement and maintenance of AML, to promote the health and safety of human populations, or to respond to emergencies and declining resource conditions (e.g., water and forage) caused by disease, drought, wildfire, and extreme weather events.
2. Application of population growth suppression techniques, including fertility control such as sterilization, vaccines and contraception, in wild horses and burros for the achievement and maintenance of AML.
3. Unrestricted sale of excess wild horses and burros for which an adoption demand does not exist.
4. Euthanasia of healthy excess wild horses and burros for which an adoption or sale demand does not exist.
5. Sterilization of wild horses and burros for the purpose of managing HMAs as non-reproducing in whole or part.

Options for Management of Wild Horses and Burros

Option I: Achieve AML in 8 Years, Using All the Authorities within the Act, while Substantially Decreasing Off-Range Holding Costs

Under this option, the BLM would achieve AML within priority HMAs (about 115 of the 177 HMAs, or about two-thirds of the total, including HMAs that overlap priority Greater Sage-Grouse habitat) by 2021, and within all HMAs by 2026, through an intensive gather and removal program for excess wild horses and burros to dramatically decrease on-range populations. In addition, any animals returned to the range during gather operations would be treated/boosted with some form of population growth suppression, focusing mainly on temporary fertility control vaccines or where appropriate, minimal amounts of permanent sterilization to help maintain AML. Off-range actions would focus on placing excess horses and burros into private care through adoptions and sales, including international sales to countries for agricultural, law enforcement, park management, and other uses. Animals not placed in private care would be sold without limitation or euthanized.

Factors for Success

1. Congress would remove prohibitions that preclude the BLM from fully implementing the Act as amended. This would allow the BLM to sell without limitation all excess wild horses and burros, and in the event an adoption or sale demand by qualified individuals does not exist, destroy excess wild horses and burros in the most humane and cost-efficient manner possible.
2. The BLM would acquire funding, including through private/public partnerships, to address the higher cost of gathering, removing, selling, and euthanizing substantially higher numbers of excess horses than currently planned.
3. The BLM would complete needed resource management planning and NEPA reviews to implement this option. Completion of NEPA reviews would be much more efficient and timely if Congress authorized the categorical exclusions recommended by the BLM.
4. The BLM would find enough trained veterinarians to perform the necessary number of permanent sterilization procedures.

Total Funding Requirements: Within FY 2019 the BLM could begin implementing this option to achieve AML in priority HMAs by FY 2021 and non-priority HMAs by FY 2026. Full implementation of this option will require both appropriated funds and public/private partnerships and resources.

From FY 2019 through FY 2021, the number of excess horses removed and the number of animals adopted, sold and euthanized would increase from FY 2018 levels. The BLM estimates a total funding need, including public/private partnerships and other sources, equivalent to about \$115 million per year for that time period. Total program costs would be reduced each year after that. In FY 2022, off-range pastures would be closed and costs would continue to decrease through FY 2026 when AML would be achieved. Once again, the BLM would look to reduce the need for appropriated funding through private-public partnerships and working with the BLM Foundation to create these opportunities.

Once AML is achieved, the annual budget for the wild horse and burro program would be about \$65 million per year (adjusted for inflation) due to the significant reductions in holding and removal costs. At that time, funding and public/private partnerships and resources would be used to manage the populations through fertility control and other appropriate means. In the event more efficient population control methods are developed and deployed, and less excess animals have to be removed, costs for managing the program in the out-years may be reduced further.

See Attachment 2, “Cost Estimates,” for more information on the FY 2017 data used to estimate these budget projections. These cost estimates are based on actual FY17 costs. For the purposes of this option, the costs for out-years are increased over time based on anticipated inflation.

Results of Implementing this Option: This option would allow the BLM to reach AML in 8 years with increasingly less annual appropriations. Range conditions would continue to improve over this time and animals will be less likely to move outside of the HMAs. This option would also allow the BLM to effectively monitor HMA condition as population decreases to help determine if AML adjustments are necessary.

Option II: Achieve AML in 10 Years Using Existing Authorities, By Substantially Increasing Program Funding

Under this option, the BLM would achieve AML within priority HMAs (about 115 of the 177 HMAs, or about two-thirds of the total, including HMAs that overlap priority Greater Sage-Grouse habitat) by 2021, and within all HMAs by 2028, through a gather and removal program for excess wild horses and burros to dramatically decrease on-range populations, while treating large numbers of animals with currently available fertility control vaccines starting in 2021. Aggressive (i.e. permanent sterilization) fertility control treatments would be used to maintain AML once achieved. Off-range actions would focus on placing excess horses and burros into private care through adoptions and sales, including international sales to countries for agricultural, law enforcement, park management, and other uses. However, even in best-case scenarios, off-range populations would increase significantly over 10 years, as adoption and sale would not be able to match removals. Animals not placed in private care would remain in BLM care until natural mortality. The BLM would focus on finding partners who are willing and able to provide low- to no-cost housing for excess animals.

Factors for Success

1. The BLM and its partners would acquire funding to address the increased cost of gathering, removing, and adopting substantially higher numbers of excess horses than currently planned.
2. The BLM and its partners would acquire funding and authority to transport animals that have already been sold to nonprofit organizations or other countries for humanitarian purposes or to promote economic development, and therefore are no longer considered to be wild horses and burros under the Act.
3. The BLM would be able to complete needed resource management planning and NEPA reviews to implement this option. Completion of NEPA reviews would be much more efficient and timely if Congress authorized the categorical exclusions recommended by the BLM.
4. The BLM would be able to find partner(s) who are willing and able to provide low-cost off-range housing and care for excess animals.

Total Funding Requirements: The BLM estimates a total funding need, including public/private partnerships and other sources equivalent to about \$116 million in FY 2019 and increasing to \$246 million in FY 2027. Total program costs slowly decrease from FY 2028 and beyond as the number of animals in off-range facilities would decrease over time due to natural mortality. Once again, the BLM would look to reduce the need for appropriated funding through private-public partnerships and working with the BLM Foundation to create these opportunities. In the event more efficient population control methods are developed and deployed, and less excess animals have to be removed, costs for managing the program in the out-years may be reduced.

See Attachment 2, “Cost Estimates,” for more information on the FY 2017 data used to estimate these budget projections. These estimates are based on actual FY17 costs. For the purposes of this option, the costs for out-years are increased over time based on anticipated inflation.

Results of Implementing this Option: This option allows the BLM to reach AML in 10 years while focusing off-range operations on private care placement and finding low-cost options for animal care through private pastures and local partnerships. The actual cost of implementing this option could vary widely. If organizations throughout the United States come forward with lower

than current or no-cost options for caring for thousands of animals, the overall cost could be drastically lower. However, if only a few or no organizations provide services in this way, the BLM could see increases for off-range holding facilities above those estimated in this analysis. This option does provide the opportunity for the BLM to find care for all animals removed from the range without the need to pursue the removal of Congressional prohibitions on the use of specific authorities available under the Act, as amended.

Option III: Achieve AML in 6 Years Using Existing Authorities and Creating an Adoption Incentive Program

Under this option, the BLM would achieve national AML within priority HMAs (about 115 of the 177 HMAs, or about two-thirds of the total, including HMAs that overlap priority Greater Sage-Grouse habitat) by 2021, and within all HMAs by 2024, through an intensive gather and removal program for excess wild horses and burros to dramatically decrease on-range populations. The BLM would use permanent sterilization throughout the 6 years to help control population growth and maintain AML once achieved.

Off-range actions would focus on placing excess horses and burros into private care through adoptions and sales, including international transfers to countries for agricultural, law enforcement, park management, and other uses. Animals not placed in private care would remain in BLM care until natural mortality. This option focuses on large removals and permanent sterilization over the first few years to get to AML in key areas while allowing time for fertility control treatment research to produce reliable options for long-lasting, easily administered vaccines. Ultimately, if the research is successful, this would reduce the need for removals and significantly reduce future funding needs.

In addition, an adoption incentive program would be established to increase adoptions to good homes, thereby reducing future funding needs. An incentive program of \$1,000 per animal, given at the point of adoption with appropriate controls, would allow adopters to defray part of the expenses for care and training of these animals. This investment would help ensure these animals remain in private care for the rest of their lives and would also result in considerable savings for the taxpayer. If that same adopted animal were held in a short-term facility, for example, it would cost the United States \$1,000 after only 200 days in captivity. Over a period of 25 years, holding that same animal in an off-range corral would cost the taxpayers nearly \$46,000.

Factors for Success

1. The BLM and its partners would acquire funding to address the cost of gathering, treating, and removing substantially higher numbers of excess horses and burros than currently planned.
2. The BLM would be able to complete needed resource management planning and NEPA reviews to implement this option. Completion of NEPA reviews would be much more efficient and timely if Congress authorized the categorical exclusions recommended by the BLM.
3. The BLM would be able to find enough trained veterinarians to perform the necessary number of permanent sterilization procedures.
4. The BLM could acquire significant acres of additional off-range pasture space through partners and contractors without inflationary pressures causing large increases above current cost levels.

Total Funding Requirements: Under this option, for the next 10 years, the number of excess horses removed and the number of animals adopted/sold would increase from FY 2018 levels. The BLM estimates a total funding need, including public/private partnerships and other sources equivalent to about \$133 million in FY 2019 and increasing to \$147 million in FY 2023, at which time costs would reduce to about \$72 million in FY 2028. Total program costs continue to decrease from FY 2029 and beyond, as the number of animals in off-range facilities would decrease over time due to natural mortality and removal operations would be minimized. Once again, the BLM would look to reduce the need for appropriated funding through private-public partnerships and working with the BLM Foundation to create these opportunities. In the event more efficient population control methods are developed/deployed and less excess animals have to be removed, costs for managing the program in the out-years may be reduced further.

See Attachment 2, “Cost Estimates,” for more information on the FY 2017 cost data used to estimate these budget projections. These cost estimates are based on actual FY17 costs. For the purposes of this option, the cost for out-years are increased over time based on anticipated inflation.

Results of Implementing this Option: This option allows the BLM to reach national AML in 6 years while focusing off-range operations on private care placement and finding low-cost options for animal care through private pastures and local partnerships. The actual costs of implementing this option could vary widely. If organizations throughout the United States come forward with lower than current or no-cost options for caring for thousands of animals, the overall costs could be drastically lower. However, if only a few or no organizations provide services in this way, the BLM could see increases for off-range holding facilities above those estimated in this analysis. This option provides the opportunity for the BLM to find care for all animals removed from the range with the current Congressional prohibitions on the use of specific authorities available under the Act, as amended.

Option IV: Achieve AML in 12 Years Using Existing Authorities, Creating an Adoption Incentive Program, and Increasing Permanent Sterilization

Under this option, the BLM would achieve national AML within all HMAs by 2030, through a program of intensive gathering, permanent sterilization, and return of sterilized animals to the range to decrease on-range populations through natural mortality over 12 years. The BLM would use permanent sterilization through the first 6 years to help control population growth, at which time over 80percent percent of the on-range population would be permanently sterilized.

Off-range actions would focus on placing excess horses and burros into private care through adoptions and sales, including international transfers to countries for agricultural, law enforcement, park management, and other uses. Annual removals would stay within the annual adoption/sale totals to allow for steady decreases in off-range populations. This option focuses on permanent sterilization over the first 6 years, although during this time fertility control treatment research would continue in hopes of producing reliable options for long-lasting, easily administered vaccines. Ultimately, if the contraceptive research is successful, this would reduce the need for permanent sterilization.

In addition, an incentive program would be established to increase adoptions to good homes, thereby reducing future funding needs. An incentive program of \$1,000 per animal, given at the

point of adoption with appropriate controls, would allow adopters to defray part of the expenses for care and training of these animals. This investment would help ensure these animals remain in private care for the rest of their lives and would also result in considerable savings for the taxpayer. If that same adopted animal were held in a short-term facility, for example, it would cost the United States \$1,000 after only 200 days in captivity. Over a period of 25 years, holding that same animal in an off-range corral would cost the taxpayers nearly \$46,000.

Factors for Success

1. The BLM would need to complete resource management planning and NEPA reviews to implement this option. Completion of NEPA reviews would be much more efficient and timely if Congress authorized the categorical exclusions recommended by the BLM.
2. The BLM would be able to find enough trained veterinarians and/or facilities to perform the necessary number of permanent sterilization procedures.

Total Funding Requirements: Under this option, for the next 10 years, the number of excess horses removed and the number of animals adopted/sold would increase from FY 2018 levels. The BLM estimates a total funding need, including public/private partnerships and other sources, of about \$135 million in FY 2019 and increasing to \$143 million in FY 2023, at which time costs would reduce to about \$104 million in FY 2024. Total program costs would then decrease to about \$80 million from FY 2025 to FY 2030, at which time, costs could significantly decrease as animals in pasture facilities reach natural lifespan limits and natural mortality levels begin to increase. In the event more efficient population control methods are developed and deployed, and less animals have to be permanently sterilized, costs for managing the program in the out-years may be reduced further.

See Attachment 2, “Cost Estimates,” for more information on the FY 2017 cost data used to estimate these budget projections. These cost estimates are based on actual FY17 costs. For the purposes of this option, the costs for out-years are increased over time based on anticipated inflation.

Results of Implementing this Option: This option allows the BLM to reach national AML in 12 years while focusing off-range operations on private care placement and finding low-cost options for animal care through private pastures and local partnerships. The actual costs of implementing this option could vary widely. This option provides the opportunity for the BLM to find care for all animals removed from the range with the current Congressional prohibitions on the use of specific authorities available under the Act. While on-range populations would not decrease as quickly as in other options, option IV focuses on population control through permanent sterilization and lets natural mortality on the range decrease population levels over time.

Conclusion

In each of the four options addressed above, the BLM will need the help of all stakeholders – Congress, livestock operators, state and local governments, and public interest organizations – to solve the wild horse and burro overpopulation challenge. The BLM looks forward to working with Congress and other interested parties on common sense solutions and will continue to pursue collaboration where possible. We request that Congress examine each of the options and advise on which of the tools it deems most suitable for addressing this urgent challenge.

Attachment 1 - National Wild Horse and Burro Summit - Preferences of Participants

The State of Utah, Utah State University, the Berryman Institute, and the Wild Sheep Foundation co-hosted a summit in Salt Lake City Utah on August 22-24, 2017. The goal of the summit was “full implementation of the 1971 Wild Horse and Burro Management Act (Act).” Participation was by invitation and included representatives of state, local and tribal governments, academia, public land users, conservation groups, wildlife interest groups, and federal agencies.

The workshop included a tour to view on-the-ground management issues and sessions on wild horse and burro policy, legal matters, science, and best management practices. Participants shared their preferences regarding the future management of BLM’s wild horse and burro program. Summit participants who voted in the session indicated their level of support for various suggestions to address horse and burro issues.

Highly-supported options:

- 99 percent Commercial use of horses of protein for pet food
- 96 percent Commercial use of horses of protein for zoo animals
- 96 percent of respondents favor changing the current status quo situation
- 96 percent Euthanizing unadoptable horses for population control
- 92 percent Allowing sale without restrictions
- 93 percent Reducing the age of “sale without restrictions” from 10+ years old to 5+ years old
- 92 percent Commercial use of horses of protein for human consumption

Well-supported options:

- 89 percent Permanent sterilization of mares by spaying
- 88 percent Allowing private organizations to acquire/adopt large numbers of horses
- 88 percent Adding additional contraceptives as management tools
- 87 percent Developing additional adoption opportunities outside the U.S.
- 85 percent Developing additional adoption opportunities within the U.S.
- 80 percent Creating coordination committees or working groups at appropriate local scales
- 76 percent Allowing individual states to manage horses within their boundaries without Federal restrictions

Options with mixed levels of support:

- Gathering excess horses off the range and moving them to private leased pastures (43 percent supported, 43 percent opposed)
- Increased use of the contraceptive PZP (63 percent supported, 31 percent opposed)
- Maintaining non-reproducing herds in areas where population could be supplemented by outside sterile horses (60 percent supported, 40 percent uncertain or opposed)
- Attempting rest-rotation grazing systems for horses on the range (40 percent supported, 60 percent uncertain or opposed)
- Reducing horse forage allocation limits for horses in HMAs, effectively reducing AML (68 percent supported, 28 percent unsure or opposed)
- Adding mules to horse herds to control herd growth via harem gathering (21 percent supported, 31 percent uncertain, 48 percent opposed)

Options with comparatively low support:

- 98 percent were “completely opposed” to allowing horses to self-regulate on the range; no actions taken
- 94 percent opposed to increasing the number (thus, total acreage) of HMAs
- 92 percent opposed to expanding the size of current HMAs
- 75 percent opposed to BLM hauling water to horses in the same location each year
- 82 percent opposed to reducing cattle AUMs in HMAs

As noted, this information reflects only the opinions of the National Wild Horse and Burro Summit participants who participated in the voting exercise conducted on August 24, 2017. Although those voting represented a diverse cross-section of stakeholders, this information cannot be extrapolated beyond this context.

Attachment 2 - FY 2017 Cost Estimates

Action	Cost per Unit	Comment
Removals	\$1,000 per head	Based on average cost of animal removed from the range and into a BLM-managed or contracted facility. Includes cost of shipment to the facility for processing (vaccines, Coggins test, gelding.)
Fertility Control	\$3,000 per treated mare	Average cost to treat one animal, includes costs to gather enough animals to treat a single mare with a fertility control vaccine.
Sale	\$1,931 per head	Average cost for all private care placements, including BLM adoptions and those facilitated by partners, like the Mustang Heritage Foundation, Trainer Incentive Program (TIP), sales etc.
Euthanasia	\$1,000	Cost of gather not included here. Includes humanely dispatching the excess animal and disposing of the carcass. Cost estimates for carcass disposal based on USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Programmatic EIS.
BLM Adoption	\$1,931 per head	Average cost for all private care placements, including BLM adoptions and those facilitated by partners, like the Mustang Heritage Foundation, TIP, sales etc.
Holding in BLM corrals	\$5.05 per head per day	Includes cost of caring for the animal while in a BLM managed or contracted corral.
Off-range Pastures	\$1.98 per head per day	Includes cost of caring for the animal until natural death in a contracted pasture.
* These cost estimates are based on actual FY17 costs and actions taken. For the purposes of this options paper, the costs for out-years are increased over time based on anticipated inflation.		

Attachment 3 – Public Opinion



A public wild horse and burro advisory board meeting.

Photo by the BLM.

There are strong, determined advocacy groups and many thousands of interested members of the public throughout the United States, and internationally, that participate in the “conversation” regarding management of wild horses and burros. Those who speak out regarding the BLM’s wild horse and burro program are generally interested in the well-being of the horses and/or the health of the public lands. Conflict levels are often high and the program is controversial and politically sensitive.

Many of the management approaches suggested by the public would result in the type of changes that would require the BLM to amend existing Resource Management Plans, and complete appropriate NEPA analysis before they could be implemented. Changes to existing Federal laws may also be needed. The other management approaches, which are not fully included in any of the options, but were proposed by the public, include:

- *Expand public lands for use by wild horses and burros.* Another suggested management approach was to return unadopted wild horses to Herd Areas (HAs), or to expand the areas of the public lands designated for their use. Herd Areas are geographic areas of the public lands identified as habitat used by wild horses and burros in 1971, when they were first protected by the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act. These areas were not designated, through the BLM’s land use planning process, for long-term management of wild horses and burros. Decisions to return unadopted horses to HAs would require the BLM to amend existing land use plans and complete appropriate NEPA analysis on a case-by-case basis, or on a national level. Designating lands for wild horse and burro use that are outside the 1971 HA boundaries would require changes to the Act.
- *Make wild horses and burros a principal land use.* Some suggested a management approach in which wild horses and burros, and wildlife, would be the principal use of the public lands, and other uses would be reduced or eliminated. These types of actions would require the BLM to amend existing land use plans in accordance with NEPA and applicable Federal regulations and could also require changes to Federal law. .

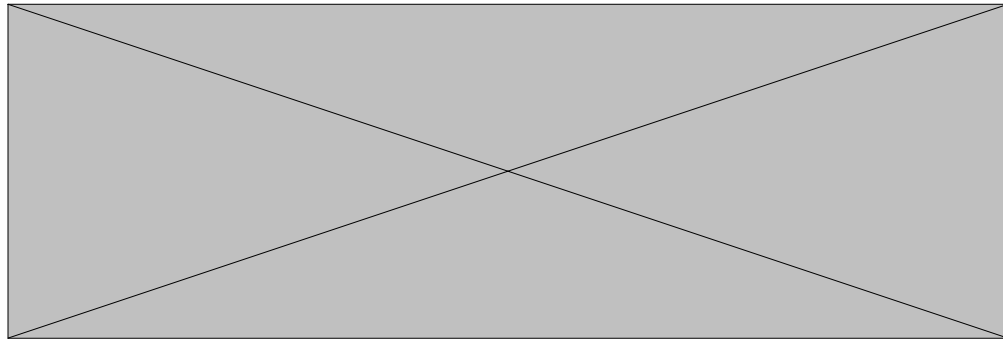
- *Use only fertility control.* Others suggested a management approach that would rely on the sole use of fertility control to manage wild horse and burro population size (i.e., no further gathers to remove excess animals). The current PZP-22 fertility control vaccine is not 100 percent effective and annual retreatments are necessary. In order to maintain zero growth in the existing population it would be necessary to capture most wild horses every year for the administration of fertility control to target mares. This is not operationally feasible. Under any option, the BLM will conduct research into the development of longer acting fertility control agents and other population growth suppression methods, and use a combination of methods to reduce annual population growth. The goal for this research will be to develop safe, humane, longer-lasting, and more effective methods for managing population size. At the same time, the BLM recognizes that fertility control vaccines, even with their limited effectiveness, are a crucial component of maintaining AML, especially in those HMAs where it can be applied through ground darting.
- *Let nature takes its course.* Allowing populations to regulate themselves through starvation, disease, or predators to control wild horse and burro population size was also suggested. The BLM requested that the National Research Council (NRC) review the Wild Horse and Burro Program to determine if there is credible scientific evidence that population “self-regulation,” and/or predation would be effective in controlling wild horse and burro population size before land and herd health is compromised. The NRC concluded that at the 2013 population levels, contraception or self-limitation strategies may not reduce horse and burro populations to target levels and that horses may first have to be removed. The NRC also stated that it is evident that the consequences of simply letting horse populations expand to the level of “self-limitation”—bringing suffering and death due to disease, dehydration, and starvation accompanied by degradation of the land—are unacceptable. The NRC cited previous research stating that wild horses and burros can kill plants through uprooting and trampling, create areas of low vegetation cover, and change plant species composition to favor less desirable or exotic species. At some point, reduced vegetation cover can lead to accelerated soil erosion and decreased vegetation productivity and rangeland health.
- *Stop using helicopters.* Another suggested management approach would suspend the use of helicopters to assist in the gather and removal of excess wild horses and burros. The Office of the Inspector General (Report No.: C-IS-BLM-0018-2010, December 2010) found that gathers to remove excess wild horses and burros were necessary and humane. Several reviews of data from gather operations indicate that gather-related mortality is typically limited to about one half of one percent (0.5 percent) or less, which is very low compared to most capture methods and capture operations for wild animals. A 2008 General Accounting Office Report (GAO-09-77, October 2008) found that .47 percent of 24,855 horses gathered and removed from 2005 to 2007 in six states accidentally died as a result of capture. Based on the results of these reviews, the BLM will continue to use helicopters to assist in the removal of excess wild horses and burros when it is determined through gather planning that it is the safest, most effective, and most humane manner of doing so.
- *Allocate more public lands for wild horses and burros.* Some commenters suggested the BLM manage wild horses and burros in the future by implementing a reserve design. Under this approach, wild horses and burros would be allocated large areas of the Western landscape.

Population size would be regulated through natural processes. This approach would require changes in existing Federal law.

- *Base management on herd social dynamics.* Some suggested that future management of wild horses and burros be based on family band structure and herd social dynamics. However, the makeup of individual bands is a dynamic and ever-changing aspect of herd social behavior. Research indicates that 9 to 30 percent of mares change bands (Rutberg, 1990; Singer et.al., from the 2002 United States Geological Survey Expert Panel Report). Band structure can be made up of a lead stallion and secondary stallion, as well as bachelor bands that contribute to breeding. Research further suggests that one-third of foals are sired by non-harem stallions (National Research Council, 1991, and Bowling and Touchberry from the 2002 USGS Expert Panel Report). Eagle et.al, 1993, discusses the instability of breeding males in a band. Based on the current literature, the usefulness of managing to maintain family bands is in question given the extent of changes that take place on a continual basis.

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-05-02T13:49:43-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: ICYMI: Secretary Zinke and Senator Alexander author a CNN op-ed on the National Park Restoration Fund
Received: 2018-05-02T13:50:28-04:00

Real News...



Date: May 2, 2018
Contacts: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

In Case You Missed It
Secretary Zinke and Senator Alexander Author a CNN op-ed on the National Park Restoration Fund

WASHINGTON – After visiting Great Smoky Mountains National Park together during National Park Week, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke and U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander of Tennessee today published an op-ed on the National Parks Restoration Act. The op-ed addresses the \$11.6 billion backlog of maintenance in the National Park System. Senator Alexander introduced this legislation in Congress, which has the support of President Donald J. Trump. The Act would create a fund created from energy revenues on federal land. This piece of legislation has garnered bipartisan support in both houses of Congress.

Check out the full op-ed below:

[CNN: Zinke and Alexander: How to protect America's 'best idea'](#)

In 2017, over 330 million visitors traveled to see the memorials and monuments across our great nation. Every American should be able to enjoy our treasured parks, but heavy traffic and aging infrastructure are taking a toll on America's system of 417 National Park Service sites. Bluntly, our parks are being loved to death and it's time to invest in restoring and preserving them for future generations.

Writer and conservationist Wallace Stegner rightly called national parks America's "best idea,"

but neglect in infrastructure funding has resulted in our trails being eroded, visitor amenities being diminished and campgrounds being closed.

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park, which attracted 11 million visitors last year, has a \$215 million deferred maintenance backlog. In 2013, the park had to close its Look Rock campground and picnic area due to funding shortfalls in replacing the water treatment facilities. The total deferred maintenance bill for all national park sites is four times the annual congressional appropriation.

The good news is that this year, we have a proposal in Congress that could tackle most, if not all, of that \$11.6 billion backlog over the next 10 years. The proposal, from a bipartisan coalition of senators and representatives, has the backing of President Donald J. Trump. Senators Angus King, I-Maine; Steve Daines, R-Montana; Martin Heinrich, D-New Mexico; Shelley Moore Capito, R-West Virginia; Joe Manchin, D-West Virginia; Cory Gardner, R-Colorado; and Thom Tillis, R-North Carolina; along with representatives Mike Simpson, R-Idaho; Kurt Schrader, D-Oregon; Rob Bishop, R-Utah; Colleen Hanabusa, D-Hawaii; Will Hurd, R-Texas; and John Garamendi, D-California, are supporting the bill.

This is personal for the two of us. We have visited the Great Smoky Mountains together twice — once for the National Park Service's 101st birthday in 2017 and again this year during National Park Week — both times gleaning a new sense of purpose from witnessing firsthand the critical need for infrastructure improvements in our park system.

This bipartisan legislation would help eliminate the maintenance backlog by means of a well-established principle of multiple-use that has worked in other instances, by directing part of the revenue from energy development on some of our federal lands to maintain other federal lands for public enjoyment.

Our proposal does just this: It would create the National Park Restoration Fund to provide mandatory funding for the maintenance backlog at our national parks. These revenues will come from energy leases on all onshore and offshore sources of energy production on federal land: oil, gas, coal, renewables, and alternative energy. The fund would receive 50% of onshore and offshore revenues from energy production on federal lands over expected amounts that are not already allocated to other purposes. It's a fair proposition that those activities that gain wealth from public lands should also have an obligation to restore and preserve them.

This idea -- using public land "for the benefit and enjoyment of the people" -- has been around for over a century. The words are engraved into the Roosevelt Arch at Yellowstone National Park -- an arch whose cornerstone Theodore Roosevelt dedicated in 1903. Almost 60 years later in 1962, the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission, (which Laurance Rockefeller chaired), proposed using revenues from oil and gas leasing in the Outer Continental Shelf to fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund, or LWCF.

Congress enacted the LWCF in 1964. In the 1980s, President Ronald Reagan's Commission on Americans Outdoors endorsed the LWCF and recommended full funding. Between its inception and 2016, the LWCF has spent \$17.5 billion from energy exploration for conservation projects. In 2006, Congress went even further and passed the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act. That

legislation provided mandatory or automatic funding for state projects in the LWCF program. These revenues came from specific, new Outer Continental Shelf leases in the Gulf of Mexico.

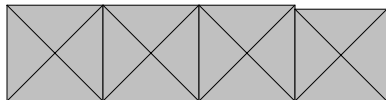
Our bipartisan proposal, then, is the latest chapter in this American story of conservation: using revenues from energy development on federal lands as mandatory or automatic funding to help pay for the national park maintenance backlog. In this connected age -- where our attention is increasingly held hostage by the glowing pixels of a five-inch screen -- unplugging, taking in the magnificent vistas of our national parks, and reconnecting with the beauty and wonder of the natural world is more important than ever.

National parks preserve beauty for everyone -- regardless of socioeconomic status -- to share. Parents rescue children from their digital diet to feast on a world of natural splendor. We learn there the history of our home regions of East Tennessee, of Montana -- and of our nation's capital.

We must work together to restore these national treasures, so future generations have the same opportunity to enjoy them that we have had.

Ryan Zinke is the United States secretary of the interior. Lamar Alexander is a Republican United States senator from Tennessee. The views expressed in this commentary are solely those of the authors.

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-05-03T11:02:48-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: BLM Sage Grouse Draft EIS's and Next Steps
Received: 2018-05-03T11:03:43-04:00
[BLM listens to California and Nevada State partners 05.02.18.pdf](#)
[BLM listens to Idaho State partners 05.02.18.pdf](#)
[BLM listens to Oregon State partners 05.02.18.pdf](#)
[BLM listens to Utah State partners 05.02.18.pdf](#)
[BLM listens to Wyoming State partners 05.02.18.pdf](#)

Esteemed Colleagues,

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) marked a milestone yesterday in the Administration's effort to better align plans for managing Greater Sage-Grouse habitat on federal lands with state plans by publishing draft environmental impact analyses of proposed changes to resource management plans in Colorado, Idaho, Oregon, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming, and part of California.

Please share the following information with members of your organization or anyone else you think would have interest in this topic.

The BLM developed the proposed changes in collaboration with the Governors of those states, state wildlife managers and other external partners to align federal and state plans in order to pursue the shared goals of healthy sagebrush-steppe habitat that benefit wildlife and recreation while supporting local economies.

The BLM is accepting comments on the draft EISs through August 9, 2018. Comments may be submitted by mail or online and the BLM will also hold public meetings during the comment period.

The BLM expects to publish a final EIS and plan amendments by October 2018, one year after publishing the Notice of Intent to begin this planning effort.

Each state has a landing page for the Draft EIS and other documents and specific information on commenting and public meetings:

California/Nevada: Comments may be submitted by mail: BLM – Greater Sage-Grouse EIS,

Nevada State Office, [1340 Financial Blvd., Reno, NV 89502](#); or online at <https://goo.gl/uz89cT>

Colorado: Comments may be submitted by mail: BLM – Greater Sage-Grouse EIS, [2815 H Road, Grand Junction, CO 81506](#); or online at <https://goo.gl/kmLtwT>

Idaho: Comments may be submitted by mail: BLM – Greater Sage-Grouse EIS, [1387 South Vinnell Way, Boise, ID 83709](#); or online at <https://goo.gl/f94eKW>

Oregon: Comments may be submitted by mail: BLM – Greater Sage-Grouse EIS, P.O. Box 2965, Portland, Oregon, 97208-2965; or online at <https://goo.gl/PxkL5Q>

Utah: Comments may be submitted by mail: BLM – Greater Sage-Grouse EIS, BLM-UT mailing address; or online at <https://goo.gl/ywBXSñ>

Wyoming: Comments may be submitted by mail: BLM – Greater Sage-Grouse EIS, [5353 Yellowstone Road, Cheyenne, WY 82009](#); or online at <https://goo.gl/22jKE2>

I have also attached state specific press releases regarding this issue.

We cannot express this clearly enough. The U.S. Department of Interior values your input and feedback as we continue with this process. Feel free to call or email me anytime.

Thank you,

Jason Funes
Special Assistant
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5541



News Release

Nevada and California

DATE: May 2, 2018

CONTACT: BLM_Press@blm.gov

BLM listens to Nevada and California State partners

Comments sought on draft proposal to coordinate state and federal conservation efforts

RENO, Nevada – The Bureau of Land Management marked a milestone today in the Administration’s effort to better align plans for managing Greater Sage-Grouse habitat on federal lands by publishing a draft environmental impact analysis of proposed changes to resource management plans in Nevada and part of California.

The BLM developed the proposed changes in collaboration with the Governors of the two states, state wildlife managers and other stakeholders to align federal and state plans in order to pursue the shared goals of healthy sagebrush-steppe habitat that benefits wildlife and recreation while supporting local economies.

“We are committed to being a good neighbor and respect the states’ ability to manage wildlife, while recognizing the tremendous investments of effort into improving Greater Sage-Grouse populations over the last decade,” **said Department of the Interior Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt**. “We look forward to receiving comments on the draft.”

“I look forward to reviewing the draft Environmental Impact Statement and I trust that the Department of the Interior will continue to engage with and value the opinions of the impacted western governors,” **Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval said**. “I am confident we can find success by working together.”

“The Department of the Interior’s proposed changes represent an important step toward returning power back to our local communities, and lifting the Obama Administration’s heavy-handed regulations that have put major restrictions on million acres of land in Nevada and stifled economic opportunities,” **said U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV)**. “As a long-time proponent of encouraging the federal government to engage with state and local governments on conservation and land use plans, I’m pleased that the administration is listening to these key stakeholders.”

“I would like to thank the Secretary for doing a much-needed revisit of the previous Administration’s policies regarding sage hen habitat,” **said Congressman Mark Amodei (R-NV)**. “I look forward to hearing back from our stakeholders in Nevada regarding the proposed changes and plan to familiarize myself with this draft and provide further input.”

The BLM seeks to improve management alignment in ways that will increase flexibility, maintain access to public resources, and promote conservation outcomes. The proposed preferred Management Alignment alternative for the draft plans in Nevada and northeastern California would remove the sagebrush focal areas (SFAs) designated in sage-grouse conservation plans adopted in 2015; incorporate Nevada’s 2016 habitat maps and the State’s Habitat Quantification Tool for determining residual impacts; modify the use of lek buffers; clarify the 3 percent disturbance cap; consider exceptions to seasonal timing restrictions for beneficial habitat projects, allow flexibility in using updated science-based habitat boundaries; and references program-level environmental analysis of fuel breaks and rangeland restoration projects.

This draft EIS also addresses the March 2017 U.S. District Court ruling that held the BLM violated the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, (NEPA) by failing to prepare a supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the designation of Sagebrush Focal Areas (SFA) in the Nevada and Northeastern California Greater Sage-Grouse Resource Management Plan (RMP) Amendment in Nevada.

The proposed changes build on the 2015 plans, using feedback from States and other partners that found during implementation that the plans did not respond to local needs.

“Two important developments have occurred since the 2015 plans were adopted,” **said BLM Nevada Associate State Director Marci Todd**. “First, we’ve had 2 to 3 years to invest time and effort into improving sage-grouse habitat. Second, we have received a great deal of feedback from our State partners about how the plans are working on the ground and needed changes.”

Because of that feedback, Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke issued Secretarial Order 3353, Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation and Coordination with Western States, which prompted the Departmental review of the 2015 plans. He also tasked the BLM with implementing a strategy for Greater Sage-Grouse conservation that is done in partnership with local governments, and in a manner that allows both wildlife and local economies to thrive.

As a result nearly every Governor who actively participated in the Sage-Grouse Task Force asked for changes to their plans. Now the BLM is publishing six draft plans covering seven States. The Notices of Availability will appear in Friday’s *Federal Register*.

The BLM is accepting comments on the entire Draft EIS, as well as the specific planning issues, the cumulative effects analysis, and Priority Habitat Management Area decisions through Aug. 2, 2018. The most useful comments are specific and contain new information related to the

proposed actions. Comments may be submitted by mail: BLM – Greater Sage-Grouse EIS, Nevada State Office, 1340 Financial Blvd., Reno, NV 89502; or online at <https://goo.gl/uz89cT>.

Before including an address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in any comments, please bear in mind that an entire comment — including personal identifying information — may be made publicly available at any time. Requests to withhold personal identifying information from public review can be submitted, but the BLM cannot guarantee that it will be able to do so. The BLM will not consider anonymous comments.

The BLM will hold public meetings during the public comment period. Announcements about these meetings will be made by news releases to the media and posting on the project website listed above. The BLM expects to publish a final EIS and plan amendments by October 2018, once year after publishing the Notice of Intent to begin this planning effort.

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land located primarily in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The agency's mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of America's public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. Diverse activities authorized on these lands generated \$75 billion in sales of goods and services throughout the American economy in fiscal year 2016—more than any other agency in the Department of the Interior. These activities supported more than 372,000 jobs.

-BLM-



News Release

Utah State Office

DATE: May 2, 2018

CONTACT: BLM_Press@blm.gov

BLM listens to Utah State partners

Comments sought on draft proposal to coordinate state and federal conservation efforts

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah – The Bureau of Land Management marked a milestone today in the Administration’s effort to better align plans for managing Greater Sage-Grouse habitat on federal lands by publishing a draft environmental impact analysis of proposed changes to resource management plans in Utah.

The BLM developed the proposed changes in collaboration with the Utah Governor, state wildlife managers and other stakeholders to align federal and state plans. State agencies are at the forefront of efforts to maintain healthy fish and wildlife populations, and the BLM is being a better neighbor by ensuring that State partners are being heard.

“We are committed to being a good neighbor and respect the state’s ability to manage wildlife, while recognizing the tremendous investments of effort into improving Greater Sage-Grouse populations over the last decade,” **said Department of the Interior Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt**. “We look forward to receiving comments on the draft.”

"I am anxious to find a long-term solution that will allow the sage-grouse to thrive in Utah," **said Utah Governor Gary Herbert**. "That is why I am grateful to see leaders at the Department of the Interior working to improve federal sage-grouse land use plans throughout the west. The revised plans will better address localized threats while allowing for the increased flexibility that will ensure the viability of the sage-grouse. I hope that ongoing partnerships and collaboration between state and federal agencies, together with partnerships with private property owners will ensure the successful implementation of this plan."

“It’s great to have Department of the Interior leadership who understand the importance of allowing state Sage Grouse recovery plans to operate without federal interference,” **said House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop**. “Originally, The State of Utah was asked to develop a plan to preserve, protect, and encourage Sage Grouse populations. After

several years and millions of dollars, Utah presented a workable plan. It should be respected by the federal government if we are serious about protecting this species.”

The BLM seeks to improve management alignment in ways that will increase flexibility, maintain access to public resources, and promote conservation outcomes. The proposed preferred Management Alignment alternative for BLM plans in Utah would modify habitat designations to better align with State’s approach; clarify that habitat objectives only apply to priority habitat management areas; remove sagebrush focal areas (SFAs) designated in the sage-grouse conservation plans adopted in 2015; and match the State’s plan when considering local conditions in determining disturbance caps.

“We are not abandoning the 2015 plans; we are building on them,” **said BLM state director Ed Roberson.** “In the two and a half years since those plans were adopted, we’ve gotten tremendous feedback from the State on on-the-ground outcomes and impacts that are the basis for proposed changes that recognize the unique nature of sage-grouse presence in Utah.”

The Management Alignment alternative in the Draft EIS for Utah focuses management on Priority habitat management areas and documented corresponding threats to Greater Sage-Grouse populations, while proposing to allow development in priority areas if there is no habitat present.

The proposed changes build on the 2015 plans, using feedback from States and other partners that found during implementation that the plans did not respond to local needs. Because of that feedback, Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke issued Secretarial Order 3353, Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation and Coordination with Western States, which prompted the Departmental review of the 2015 plans. He also tasked the BLM with implementing a strategy for Greater Sage-Grouse conservation that is done in partnership with local governments, and in a manner that allows both wildlife and local economies to continue to thrive.

As a result nearly every Governor who actively participated in the Sage-Grouse Task Force asked for changes to their plans. Now the BLM is publishing six draft plans covering seven States. The Notices of Availability will appear in Friday’s *Federal Register*.

The BLM is accepting comments on the entire Draft EIS, as well as the specific planning issues, the cumulative effects analysis, and Priority Habitat Management Area decisions through Aug. 2, 2018. The most useful comments are specific and contain new information related to the proposed actions. Comments may be submitted by mail: BLM – Greater Sage-Grouse EIS, BLM-UT mailing address; or online at <https://goo.gl/ywBXSr>.

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personal identifying information from public review can be submitted, but the BLM cannot guarantee that it will be able to do so. The BLM will not consider anonymous comments.

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-BLM-



News Release

Idaho State Office

DATE: May 2, 2018

CONTACT: BLM_Press@blm.gov

BLM listens to Idaho State partners

Comments sought on draft proposal to coordinate state and federal conservation efforts

BOISE, Idaho – The Bureau of Land Management marked a milestone today in the Administration’s effort to better align plans for managing Greater Sage-Grouse habitat on federal lands by publishing a draft environmental impact analysis of proposed changes to resource management plans in Idaho.

The BLM developed the proposed changes in collaboration with the Idaho Governor, state wildlife managers and other stakeholders to align federal and state plans. State agencies are at the forefront of efforts to maintain healthy fish and wildlife populations, and the BLM is being a better neighbor by ensuring that State partners are being heard.

“We are committed to being a good neighbor and respect the state’s ability to manage wildlife, while recognizing the tremendous investments of effort into improving Greater Sage-Grouse populations over the last decade,” **said Department of the Interior Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt**. “We look forward to receiving comments on the draft.”

“Idaho ranchers, sportsmen, recreationists and everyone else interested in stewardship of public lands and protecting both the species and our state’s way of life should welcome this opportunity to have their voices heard,” **Idaho Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter said**. “The Trump administration is showing greater respect for on-the-ground impacts of government actions on people and communities while restoring the important role of federalism.”

“It is refreshing to see this administration working with Idaho as a partner to resolve this difficult issue,” **said Senator Jim Risch (R-ID)**. “Idahoans built this sage grouse conservation plan and it will be Idahoans that implement it. I applaud Secretary Zinke and his team for advancing Idaho’s plan through this process.”

“Today’s draft EIS is a welcome step in enhancing state and federal cooperation on sage grouse management plans,” **said House Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Mike Simpson**. “Given that most states asked for revisions to their plan, it is clear that more work needed to be done. This further proves my longstanding concern that the arbitrary court ordered listing decision for sage grouse was not based on sound science and ultimately led to a disorderly process. I look forward to working with Idahoans to ensure these plans utilize common sense locally driven measures that conserve sage grouse habitat.”

The BLM seeks to improve management alignment in ways that will increase flexibility, maintain access to public resources, and promote conservation outcomes. The proposed preferred Management Alignment alternative for BLM plans in Idaho would remove sagebrush focal areas (SFAs) designated in the sage-grouse conservation plans adopted in 2015; allow a way to modify habitat boundaries to better align with State habitat maps without requiring a plan amendment; enhance flexibility for granting waivers, exceptions, and modifications to stipulations within priority habitat areas; and consider changes to be consistent with the State’s mitigation strategy.

“We’ve had nearly three years of experience cooperating with the State of Idaho and local partners to put the 2015 plans into action, and we’ve received a great deal of feedback about on-the-ground impacts and outcomes,” **said acting BLM State Director Peter Ditton**. “It’s important to recognize that we have not thrown out the existing plans. We’re proposing to build on and refine them to ensure continuing returns on our investments.”

In 2016 and 2017, over 431,000 acres of sagebrush-steppe were treated to restore their function as sage-grouse habitat (\$5.2 million invested). Another \$3.5 million have been obligated for habitat projects in 2018.

The proposed changes build on the 2015 plans, using feedback from States and other partners that found during implementation that the plans did not respond to local needs.

Because of that feedback, Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke issued Secretarial Order 3353, Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation and Coordination with Western States, which prompted the Departmental review of the 2015 plans. He also tasked the BLM with implementing a strategy for Greater Sage-Grouse conservation that is done in partnership with local governments, and in a manner that allows both wildlife and local economies to thrive.

As a result nearly every Governor in the 11 States in the sage-grouse range asked for changes to their plans. Now the BLM is publishing six draft plans covering seven States. The Notices of Availability will appear in Friday’s *Federal Register*.

The BLM is accepting comments on the entire Draft EIS, as well as the specific planning issues, the cumulative effects analysis, and Priority Habitat Management Area decisions through Aug. 2, 2018. The most useful comments are specific and contain new information related to the

proposed actions. Comments may be submitted by mail: BLM – Greater Sage-Grouse EIS, 1387 South Vinnell Way, Boise, ID 83709; or online at <https://goo.gl/f94eKW>.

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The BLM will hold public meetings during the public comment period. Announcements about these meetings will be made by news releases to the media and posting on the project website listed above. The BLM expects to publish a final EIS and plan amendments by October 2018, one year after publishing the Notice of Intent to begin this planning effort.

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-BLM-



News Release

Oregon State Office.

DATE: May 2, 2018

CONTACT: BLM_Press@blm.gov

BLM listens to Oregon State partners

Comments sought on draft proposal to coordinate state and federal conservation efforts

PORTLAND, Oregon – The Bureau of Land Management marked a milestone today in the Administration’s effort to better align plans for managing Greater Sage-Grouse habitat on federal lands with state plans by publishing a draft environmental impact analysis of proposed changes to resource management plans in Oregon.

The BLM developed the proposed changes in collaboration with the Oregon Governor, state wildlife managers and other stakeholders to align federal and state plans. State agencies are at the forefront of efforts to maintain healthy fish and wildlife populations, and the BLM is being a better neighbor by ensuring that State partners are being heard.

“We are committed to being a good neighbor and respect the state’s ability to manage wildlife, while recognizing the tremendous investments of effort into improving Greater Sage-Grouse populations over the last decade,” **said Department of the Interior Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt.** “We look forward to receiving comments on the draft.”

A number of issues for the State of Oregon have been or will be addressed separately from the current plan amendment process. However, the draft EIS for BLM-managed sagebrush habitat in Oregon addresses the issue of livestock grazing in BLM Research Natural Areas (RNAs). The proposed preferred Management Alignment alternative evaluates the local economic impact of withdrawing RNAs from availability for grazing and examines how livestock grazing impacts the elements and values for which key RNAs were designated.

“Comments from the State during scoping indicated that current BLM plans for managing habitat align well with state plans,” **said Jamie E. Connell, BLM state director for Oregon/Washington.** “So, we are not throwing out the plan adopted in 2015 and are instead proposing a focused plan amendment to more appropriately frame threats to sage-grouse in Oregon and consider economic issues at a local scale.”

The BLM seeks to improve management alignment in ways that will increase flexibility, maintain access to public resources, and promote conservation outcomes. The Management Alignment alternative in the Draft EIS for Oregon proposes lifting the 2015 withdrawal of 13 BLM research natural areas (RNAs) from livestock grazing, to make an additional 21,959 acres available. Two RNAs (13,872 acres total) would remain closed to grazing. Connell noted that while the withdrawals were a relatively minor provision in the 2015 plan, they are expected to have significant localized impacts on some grazing permittees without corresponding gains for habitat improvement.

The proposed changes build on the 2015 plans, using feedback from States and other partners that found during implementation that the plans did not respond to local needs. Because of that feedback, Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke issued Secretarial Order 3353, Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation and Coordination with Western States, which prompted the Departmental review of the 2015 plans. He also tasked the BLM with implementing a strategy for Greater Sage-Grouse conservation that is done in partnership with local governments, and in a manner that allows both wildlife and local economies to continue to thrive.

As a result nearly every Governor who actively participated in the Sage-Grouse Task Force asked for changes to their plans. Now the BLM is publishing six draft plans covering seven States. The Notices of Availability will appear in Friday's *Federal Register*.

The BLM is accepting comments on the entire Draft EIS, as well as the specific planning issues, the cumulative effects analysis, and Priority Habitat Management Area decisions through Aug. 2, 2018. The most useful comments are specific and contain new information related to the proposed actions. Comments may be submitted by mail: BLM – Greater Sage-Grouse EIS, P.O. Box 2965, Portland, Oregon, 97208-2965; or online at <https://goo.gl/PxkL5Q>.

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-BLM-



News Release

Wyoming State Office

DATE: May 2, 2018

CONTACT: BLM_Press@blm.gov

BLM listens to Wyoming State partners

Comments sought on draft proposal to coordinate state and federal conservation efforts

CHEYENNE, Wyoming – The Bureau of Land Management marked a milestone today in the Administration’s effort to better align plans for managing Greater Sage-Grouse habitat on federal lands by publishing a draft environmental impact statement of proposed changes to resource management plans in Wyoming.

The BLM developed the proposed changes in collaboration with the Wyoming Governor, state wildlife managers and other stakeholders to align federal and state plans. State agencies are at the forefront of efforts to maintain healthy fish and wildlife populations, and the BLM is being a better neighbor by ensuring that State partners are being heard.

“We are committed to being a good neighbor and respect the state’s ability to manage wildlife, while recognizing the tremendous investments of effort into improving Greater Sage-Grouse populations over the last decade,” **said Department of the Interior Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt**. “We look forward to receiving comments on the draft.”

“I appreciate the Department of Interior and the Bureau of Land Management,” **said Wyoming Governor Matt Mead**. “They have been available through many meetings and conversations to hear our concerns and work through the process. I will look forward to an opportunity to review these documents and comment, as appropriate, after hearing from people and groups - including the sage grouse implementation team - on their views and thoughts.”

The BLM seeks to improve management alignment in ways that will increase flexibility, maintain access to public resources, and promote conservation outcomes. The proposed preferred alternative for BLM plans in Wyoming would provide a process for incorporating future iterations of the State’s Core Area maps; remove the sagebrush focal areas (SFAs) designated in the sage-grouse conservation plans adopted in 2015; clarify habitat objective tables in the 2015 plans; clarify noise stipulations within priority habitat management areas; develop a

process for “untripping” adaptive management triggers; and adopt the State of Wyoming’s mitigation framework.

“Wyoming is home to more Greater Sage-Grouse than any other state in its range. As we work through the planning process, we take our commitment to the conservation of the bird and its sagebrush steppe habitat seriously while facilitating healthy working rangelands for the American public,” **said BLM Wyoming State Director Mary Jo Rugwell.**

Two important changes have occurred since the 2015 plans were adopted: First the BLM and the states have had two to three years to invest time and effort into improving sage-grouse habitat, and second, the BLM has received a great deal of feedback from states and others about on-the-ground impacts and outcomes.

The proposed changes build on the 2015 plans, using feedback from States and other partners that found during implementation that the plans did not respond to local needs.

Because of that feedback, Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke issued Secretarial Order 3353, Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation and Coordination with Western States, which prompted the Departmental review of the 2015 plans. He also tasked the BLM with implementing a strategy for Greater Sage-Grouse conservation that is done in partnership with local governments, and in a manner that allows both wildlife and local economies to continue to thrive.

As a result nearly every Governor who actively participated in the Sage-Grouse Task Force asked for changes to their plans. Now the BLM is publishing six draft plans covering seven States. The Notices of Availability will appear in Friday’s *Federal Register*.

The BLM is accepting comments on the entire Draft EIS, as well as the specific planning issues, the cumulative effects analysis, and Priority Habitat Management Area decisions through Aug. 2, 2018. The most useful comments are specific and contain new information related to the proposed actions. Comments may be submitted by mail: BLM – Greater Sage-Grouse EIS, 5353 Yellowstone Road, Cheyenne, WY 82009; or online at <https://goo.gl/22jKE2>.

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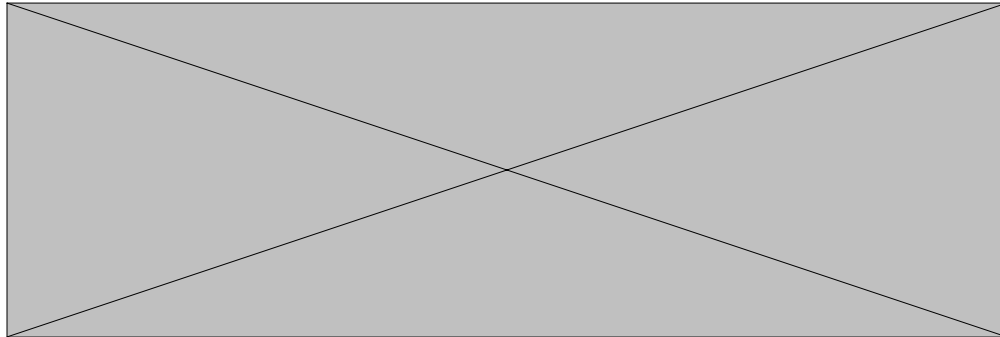
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-BLM-

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-05-04T16:30:58-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Civil War Trust Selected as Nonprofit Partner for the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States
Received: 2018-05-04T16:31:36-04:00

The Semiquincentennial is coming...



Date: May 4, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Civil War Trust Selected as Nonprofit Partner for the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States

WASHINGTON – Today, the U.S. Department of the Interior announced that the Civil War Trust has been selected as the nonprofit partner that will serve as Administrative Secretariat for the United States Semiquincentennial Commission.

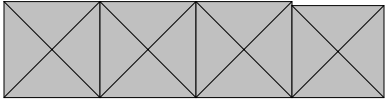
The Commission was established by an act of Congress in 2016 to coordinate and facilitate activities in 2026 to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States. The Civil War Trust was selected using a competitive process and will raise funds for the Commission's work and prepare reports to Congress.

A selection panel evaluated proposals from several organizations and recommended the Civil War Trust to the Secretary of the Interior, who made the final selection.

“The Civil War Trust has distinguished itself in fundraising and managing high profile commemorative events, and that expertise will be invaluable to the U.S.A. 250th Commemoration planning efforts,” **said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke.**

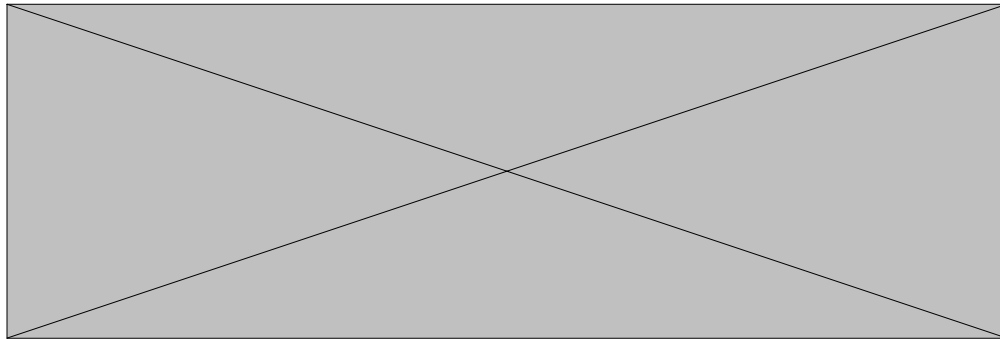
The Civil War Trust is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of America's hallowed battlegrounds. The Trust seeks to preserve battlefields connected to the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, and the Civil War.

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From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-05-07T15:39:55-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: CORRECTION: Interior Announces \$14 Million in Payments to Rural Schools in Western Oregon Counties
Received: 2018-05-07T15:40:37-04:00

Another way that the DOI is empowering rural America...



Date: May 7, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Interior Announces \$14 Million in Payments to Rural Schools in Western Oregon Counties

WASHINGTON – U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke announced today that the Bureau of Land Management will issue payments totaling \$14 million for Fiscal Year 2018 to 18 counties in western Oregon eligible under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act extension. The BLM manages the Secure Rural Schools program in Oregon and California Railroad Revested Lands, known as the O&C Lands, in concert with the U.S. Forest Service.

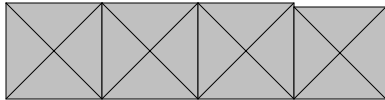
“As a kid who grew up in northwest Montana and whose sons graduated from the same high school as I did, I know how important SRS payments are to local communities that have Federal forests. These investments are one of the ways the federal government is fulfilling its role of being a good land manager and good neighbor to local communities,” **said Secretary Zinke**. “States like Oregon with large federal land holdings, play a big part in feeding and powering the nation and also in providing recreation and economic opportunities thanks to our Federal forests. Earlier this year the Trump Administration was able to secure millions of dollars in back funding for O&C counties and I’m happy to follow it up with another important payment.”

“This announcement is welcome news for Oregon counties who rely on these funds to provide essential services like schools, infrastructure, and law enforcement. I am proud to have worked with my colleagues to secure two years of full funding for the Secure Rural Schools program to support our rural forested communities, and I applaud Secretary Zinke and the Trump Administration for promptly issuing these payments,” **said Congressman Greg Walden**. “While

this safety-net funding is important and needed, there is much more work to be done to reform federal forest policy, put people back to work in our woods, and provide sustainable revenue to support local services. I will continue working alongside my colleagues in Congress and the Administration to find long-term solutions to ensure Oregon’s rural communities have the resources they need to succeed.”

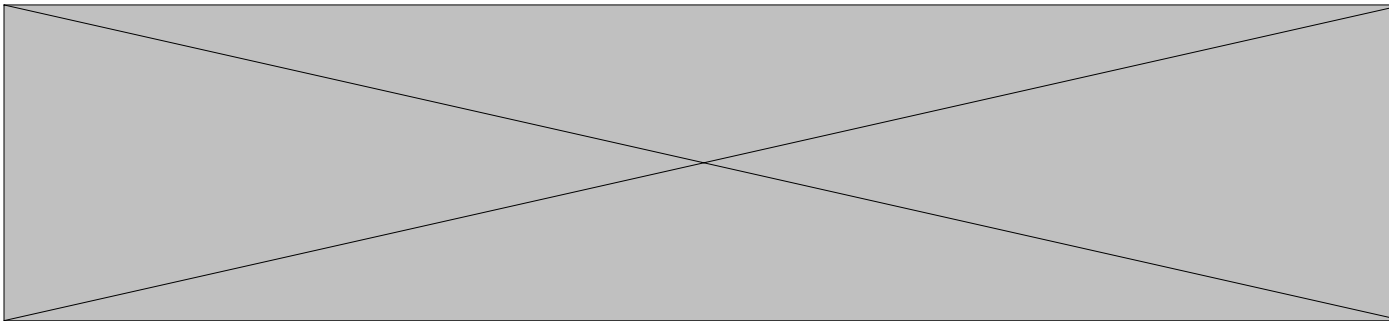
The O&C Lands, lie in a checkerboard pattern through 18 counties of western Oregon. These lands contain more than 2.4 million acres of forests with a diversity of plant and animal species, recreation areas, mining claims, grazing lands, cultural and historical resources, scenic areas, wild and scenic rivers, and wilderness. Most of the O&C lands are administered by the BLM. The 18 O&C counties receive yearly payments under the O&C Act equal to 50 percent of receipts from timber harvested on public lands in these counties. These payments follow a formula established in the 1937 Oregon and California Lands Act, which authorizes timber receipt-based payments to western Oregon counties.

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From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-05-10T14:06:35-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: *ICYMI* USDA RELEASE: Secretaries Perdue and Zinke Join Forces to Combat 2018 Wildfire Season
Received: 2018-05-10T14:07:10-04:00
[usda-doi-wildland-memorandum.pdf](#)

Government bureaucracy and "yellow tape" should not be an obstacle firefighters and the public should have to deal with when combating wildfires. We are excited and proud to continue to work across different departments, agencies, with congress, and local officials to make public safety a top priority this fire season...



Email: press@oc.usda.gov

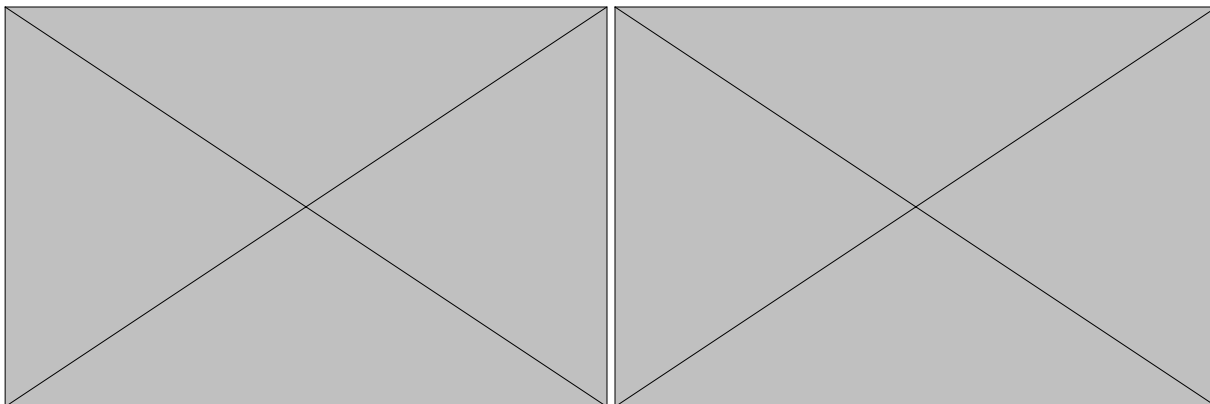
Secretaries Perdue and Zinke Join Forces to Combat 2018 Wildfire Season

(May 10, 2018, Washington, D.C.) – Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue and Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke today hosted a fire briefing for Members of Congress at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to hear the forecast for this year’s wildfire season. Following the meeting, the secretaries sent a memorandum to wildland fire leadership highlighting the importance of inter-departmental collaboration to increase firefighter, public, and community safety as the 2018 wildfire season approaches. The 2017 wildfire season was one of the most challenging years on record, stressing the need for the USDA and the Department of the Interior to work together in combating this year’s fires.

“As we begin this year’s fire season, we want to remind everyone that the protection of firefighters and public safety is the single highest priority in every fire management activity and decision that we make,” Perdue and Zinke said. “Last year we lost 14 wildland firefighters who sacrificed their own lives to protect the lives of others and that is something we hope to prevent this year.”

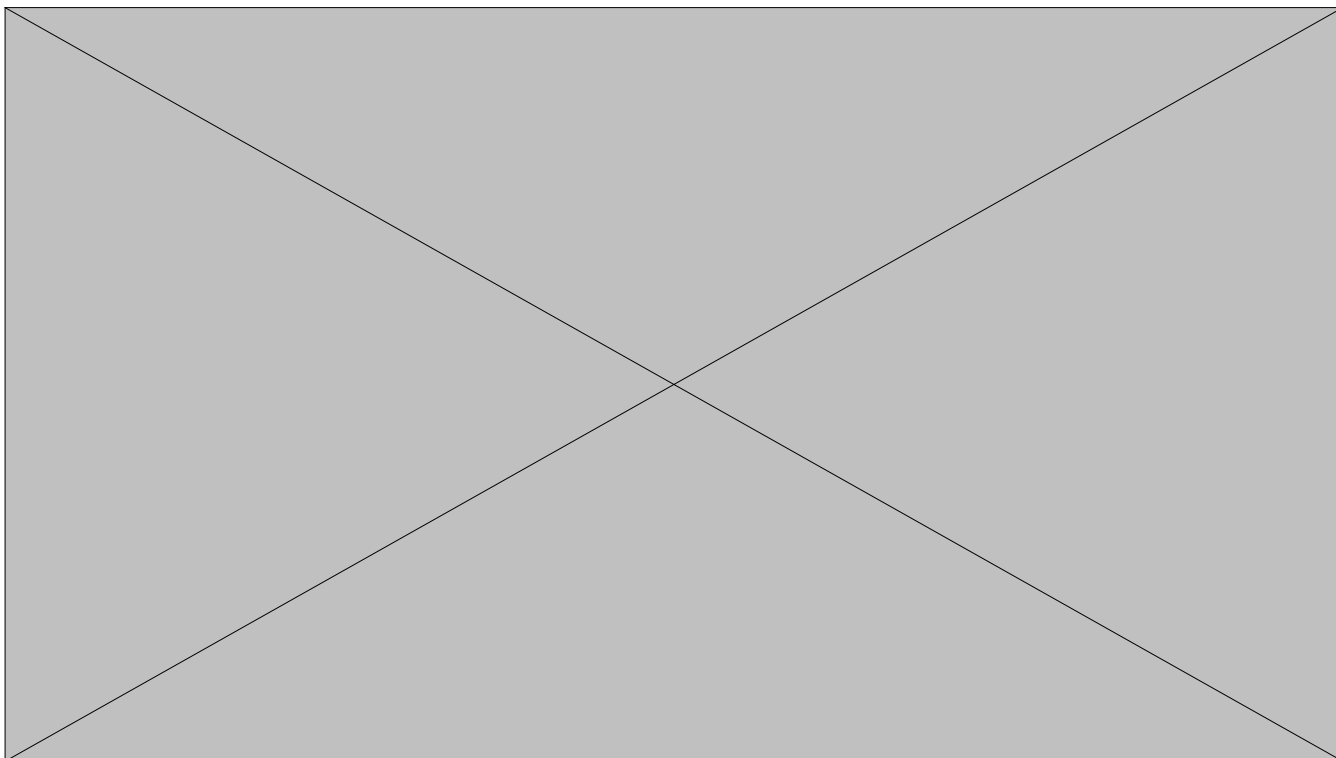
“Additionally, both Departments will continue to collaborate to ensure all firefighting assets are being used in an efficient and effective manner. It is essential that firefighters have the right tools, resources, and flexibility to allow them to do their jobs safely. As we explore opportunities to improve efficiencies, we will look to integrate technology, such as the use of unmanned aircraft systems, into our operations and capitalize on other advancements to promote firefighter safety, support planning, and protect communities.”

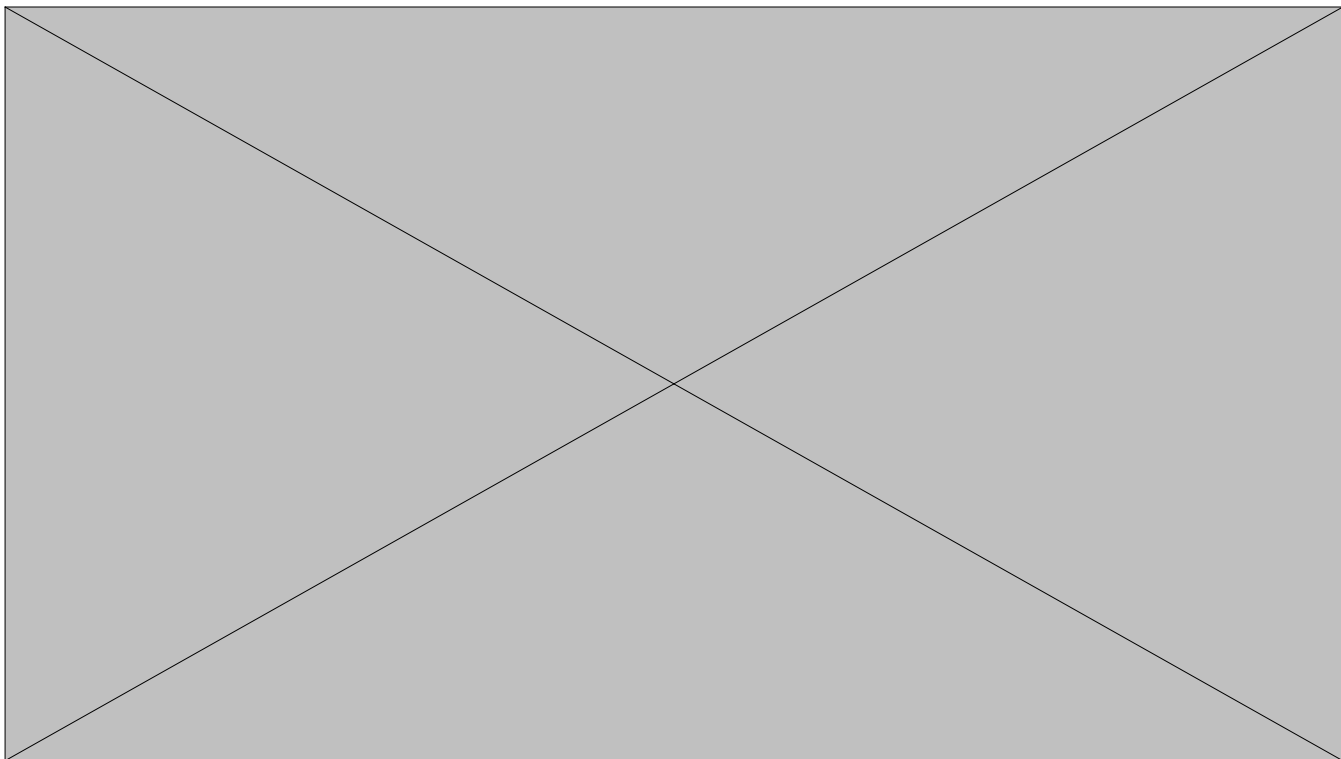
To view the memorandum in its entirety, [please click here](#).



You may click [HERE](#) to download high resolution photos from the event.

Members of Congress in attendance were Senators Michael Bennet (CO), Maria Cantwell (WA), Mike Crapo (ID), Steve Daines (MT), Cory Gardner (CO), Dean Heller (NV), Jeff Merkley (OR), Jim Risch (ID), Ron Wyden (OR); and Representatives Rob Bishop (UT), Jim Costa (CA), Jared Huffman (CA), Doug LaMalfa (CA), Frank Lucas (OK), Tom McClintock (CA), Tom O'Halleran (AZ), Steve Pearce (NM), GT Thompson (PA), Greg Walden (OR), and Bruce Westerman (AR).







Memorandum

To: Chief, U.S.D.A. Forest Service
Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs
Director, Bureau of Land Management
Director, National Park Service
Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

From: Sonny Perdue
Secretary of Agriculture

Ryan K. Zinke
Secretary of the Interior

Subject: 2018 Direction to Wildland Fire Leadership

As predicted, 2017 was one of the most challenging fire years on record. The rate and intensity of wildfires stretched our firefighting capabilities, greatly affecting many communities, impacting lives, and damaging natural resources. However, the greatest losses were those of the 14 wildland firefighters who sacrificed to protect the lives of others and the lands and resources we are entrusted to manage. Our Nation saw more than 71,000 wildfires burn more than 10 million acres of Federal, State, Tribal, and private lands. The Federal Government spent \$2.9 billion - the largest amount ever - on suppression operations. A combined 75 days were spent at Preparedness Levels 4 and 5, the second highest number of days at those levels since 1990.

As we begin the 2018 fire year, we want to remind everyone that the protection of firefighters and public safety is the single, overriding priority in every fire management activity and decision that we make. Federal wildfire policy is set forth in the "Guidance for Implementation of Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy, 2009." One of the fundamental principles underlying this guidance is the emphasis on firefighter and public safety in every aspect of wildland fire management. It is essential that all firefighting personnel understand the guiding principles and policies contained in this document and recognize the importance of maintaining a safe work environment in all operational aspects of the program.

A commitment to firefighter safety requires a workplace where all members of the firefighting community can focus on the mission and have strong trust relationships with their colleagues and partners. To that end, harassment of any kind by any member of the firefighting community will simply not be tolerated. Both the Department of the Interior and U.S. Department of Agriculture (Departments) are pressing forward with fundamental changes that are intended to improve each

organization's culture. We will compel greater accountability on the part of the entire workforce that promotes a healthy culture throughout both organizations.

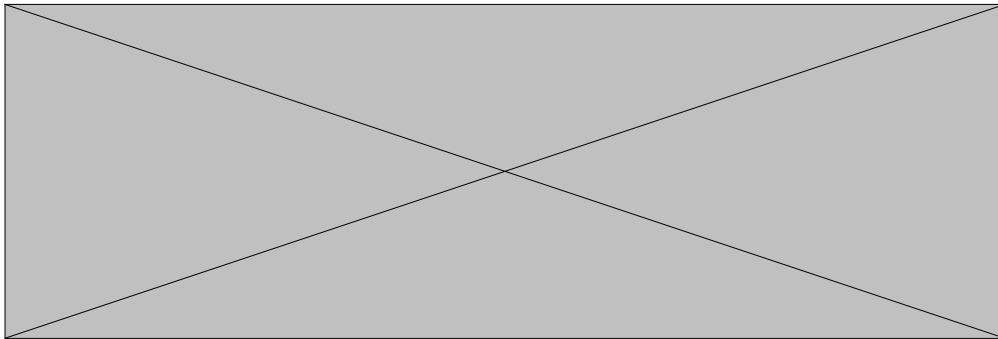
Both Departments will continue to collaborate with all Federal, Tribal, State, and local partners to share firefighting resources and assets in a coordinated response to manage wildfires. In carrying out these responsibilities, the protection of Tribal trust assets is vital to ensuring that trust lands are managed sustainably for generations to come. It is essential that firefighters have the right tools, resources, and flexibility that allow them to do their jobs safely and effectively. As we continue to explore opportunities to improve efficiencies, we will look to integrate technology, such as the use of unmanned aircraft systems, into our operations and capitalize on other advancements to promote firefighter safety, support planning, and protect communities.

Thank you for your continued leadership and service to our Nation. Carrying out our stewardship responsibilities in a safe, coordinated, and responsible manner is key to the success of the Wildland Fire Management program.

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From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-05-14T15:33:17-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Dr. Jim Reilly Takes the Helm at the U.S. Geological Survey
Received: 2018-05-14T15:34:26-04:00

Welcome to our newest out-of-this-world member of team DOI!



Date: May 14, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Dr. Jim Reilly Takes the Helm at the U.S. Geological Survey

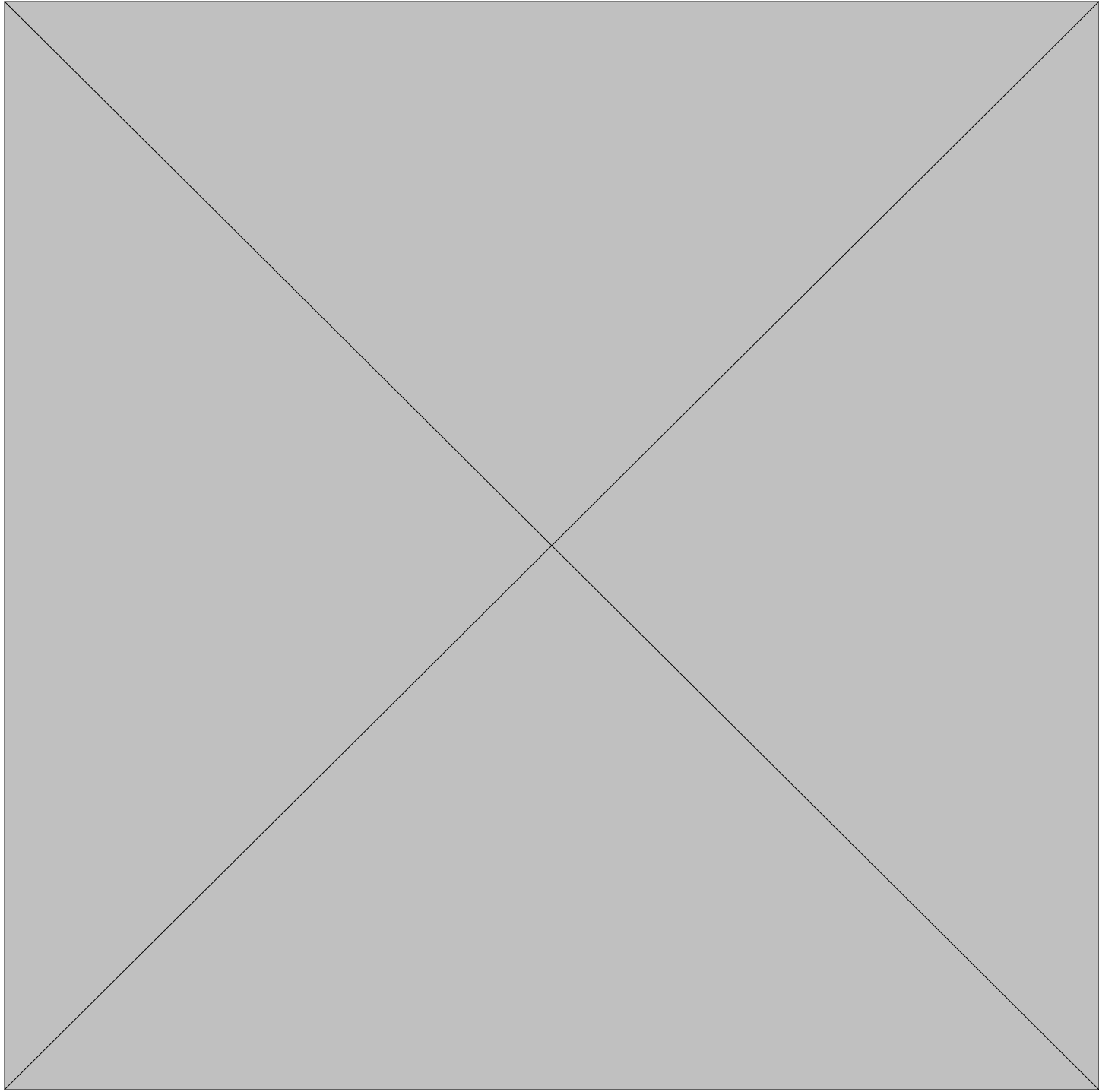
Geoscientist/Astronaut/Explorer Will Lead Interior Agency

WASHINGTON – U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke today welcomed the arrival of Dr. Jim F. Reilly II at the Department of the Interior to begin his tenure as the 17th director of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

“Dr. Reilly is an accomplished explorer, scientist, and public servant who has spent years defending our nation as a Navy Reserve officer and pushing the limits as an astronaut,” **said Secretary Zinke**. “Dr. Reilly will be a strong leader for the USGS as it addresses the natural resource opportunities and challenges we face as a nation. I am excited to finally have him on board and look forward to working with him.”

The 137-year-old agency that Reilly will lead has more than 8,600 employees; conducts research in every state; and is the nation's largest water, earth, and biological science and civilian mapping agency.

“The distinction of continuing to serve our country one more time, as the 17th Director of the U.S. Geological Survey, is a great honor and one I am proud to be given,” **said Dr. Jim Reilly**. “I’m grateful for the faith Secretary Zinke and President Trump have in me and I truly look forward to serving with the USGS team in delivering science in the interest of our people.”



The USGS conducts multidisciplinary scientific research that provides impartial information needed by land and resource managers, planners, emergency services officials, and other decision makers to make informed policy decisions. USGS science helps to minimize loss of life and property from natural disasters; to manage water, biological, energy, and mineral resources; and to enhance and protect our quality of life.

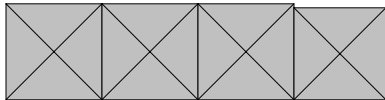
Most recently, Dr. Reilly served as a subject matter expert and curriculum developer for the U.S.

Air Force National Security Space Institute. He has extensive leadership experience in the public and private sectors, military, and academic organizations and will bring those skills to the USGS.

A former astronaut, Reilly completed three shuttle missions and five spacewalks during his 13 year career with NASA. He has logged over 856 hours in space. He also served on multiple geological expeditions in locations around the world, including on the Antarctic Peninsula and the continental shelf of the Gulf of Mexico as the chief geologist for Enserch Exploration, Inc.

Dr. Reilly has served as an officer in the U.S. Navy Reserve, and is a member of the Association of Space Explorers. He received his bachelor's, master's, and doctorate degrees in Geosciences from the University of Texas at Dallas.

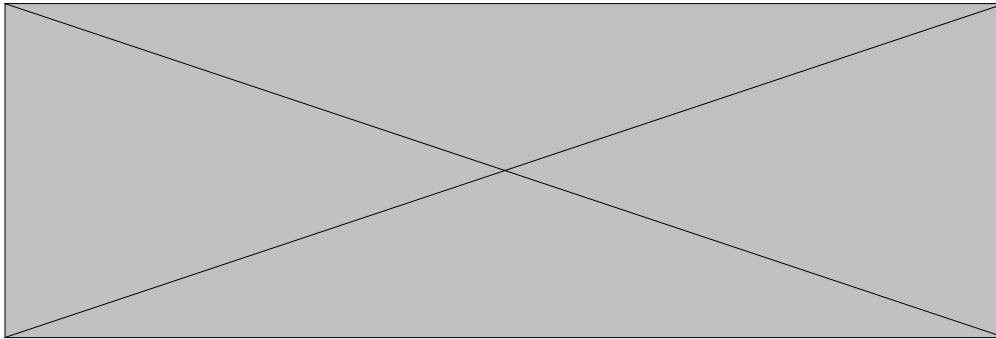
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From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-05-15T16:24:12-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Interior Awards First Contract for Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems Services
Received: 2018-05-15T16:24:46-04:00

It's a bird, it's a plane, it's DOI....



Date: May 15, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Interior Awards First Contract for Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems Services

Drone services contract capitalizes on industry strengths, part of a broader strategy to aggressively combat costly wildfires

BOISE, Idaho – As part of a broader strategy to aggressively combat wildfires, the U.S. Department of the Interior has awarded a Call When Needed contract to four U.S. companies for small-unmanned aircraft systems services. The contract, which is Interior’s first of its kind, will allow the agency to obtain fully contractor-operated and maintained small drones that are ready when needed to support wildland fire operations, search and rescue, emergency management and other resource missions in the Contiguous 48 States and Alaska.

“This contract reinforces our commitment to partnering with industry to provide our employees with the latest technology in carrying out their responsibilities as stewards of our nation’s public lands while also ensuring their safety is paramount,” **said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke**. “This capability is key to implementing our new and aggressive approach to combatting the threat of large wildfires that I outlined in my [Wildland Fire Directive](#) last September.”

The award follows a lengthy process to develop mission performance requirements and select a range of experienced commercial providers to meet this need.

Companies receiving awards included, *Bridger Aerospace* of Boseman, Montana, *Insitu* of Bingen, Washington, *Pathways2Solutions* of Nashville, Tennessee and *Precision Integrated* of Newberg, Oregon.

“As the recognized leader in the application of unmanned aircraft technology in natural resources, wildland fire, and land management applications, we look forward to supporting our Interior bureaus’ needs and those of our interagency partners with this first-ever contracted small-unmanned aircraft systems resource,” **said Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Safety, Resource Protection, and Emergency Services Harry Humbert.** “This strategic contract capability compliments the division and tactical level capabilities of our fleet vertical take-off and landing fixed wing and quadcopter small-unmanned aircraft systems, providing critical enhancements to firefighter safety and effectiveness.”

The contract consists of one base year with four option years. The total potential contract value is \$17 million. Aircraft selected under the contract will be able to operate day or night, without a runway in sustained winds up to 25 knots and at altitudes consistent with typical western wildfire environments.

“These contracted small-unmanned aircraft systems will supplement the manned firefighting fleet by providing the capability to operate during dense smoke/inversion situations which often occur and have heretofore hampered the aggressive prosecution of destructive wildfires,” **said Jeff Rupert, Director of the Office of Wildland Fire.** “Infrared/thermal camera technology onboard these small-unmanned aircraft systems can penetrate smoke and gather/disseminate information to deliver critical situational awareness for incident commander. These sensors also provide us with the first real opportunity to collect, analyze, and archive relevant wildfire suppression and retardant outcome data since aerial suppression began in 1930.”

“Interior has a long history of collaborating and partnering with industry to provide our field and fire personnel with safe, effective, and cost-efficient commercial air services to meet unique mission needs,” **said Interior’s Office of Aviation Services Director, Mark Bathrick.** “Historically, nearly 70 percent of our manned aircraft missions are supported through commercial air services contracts. The capabilities of these contractor operated small-unmanned aircraft systems will provide our scientists, land managers, emergency managers, and firefighters with additional capacity to obtain enhanced sensing, increase employee and public safety, realize cost savings, and service Interior’s diverse and dynamic mission requirements more responsively. This new capability fulfills another important element in Interior’s [Unmanned Aerial Services Integration Strategy](#).”

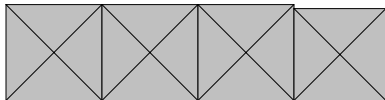
Like their Interior small-unmanned aircraft systems fleet counterparts, these aircraft will operate from within the Temporary Flight Restrictions established over most large wildfires. This will enable them to take advantage of Interior’s unique authorities from the Federal Aviation Administration to operate beyond visual line of sight—a critical capability in the smoky wildfire environment. Their longer endurance will provide incident commanders with near real-time access to critical fire boundary, behavior, and hotspot location, enabling them to make faster, more informed decisions than in the past. In conjunction with the tactical and division level fleet small-unmanned aircraft systems Interior has already integrated into the wildland fire environment, these aircraft will enhance firefighter safety through the identification of emerging changes in fire behavior and escape routes.

The collaboration between Interior and our U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service partners on unmanned aerial systems follows a tradition of effectiveness and efficiency where

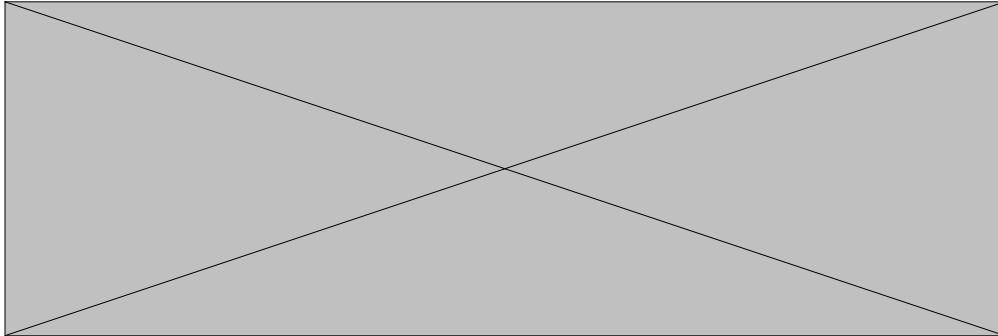
each Department takes the lead on a particular firefighting aircraft type. As an example, the U.S. Forest Service is the recognized lead for the Large Air Tanker and Very Large Air Tanker programs, while Interior leads the Single Engine Air Tanker program for both agencies. Similarly, Interior's award-winning unmanned aerial systems program has been recognized by Congress as a leader "in piloting and demonstrating the potential for unmanned aerial systems to assist in wildland fire suppression."

Interior is currently working to bring small unmanned aerial systems to the hazardous aerial ignition mission, which over the last 13 years has resulted in the loss of two contracted helicopters and five lives. Future initiatives include the continued development of optionally-piloted helicopter technology developed by the Department of Defense to enable safe and effective use suppression of fires during the approximately 16 hours each day when night and reduced visibility currently prevent aerial support. Historically, 20 percent of all wildfires are discovered outside periods of traditional aviation support. Interior believes tripling the amount of active aviation support time on wildfires will have game changing benefits in reducing the time, area, and cost to contain wildfires.

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From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-05-16T15:24:33-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: New Mexico Elementary School Receives \$26.2 Million for New School Construction
Received: 2018-05-16T15:25:32-04:00



Date: May 16, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

New Mexico Elementary School Receives \$26.2 Million for New School Construction

*Laguna Elementary School is the first school to be awarded under the BIA
Replacement School List*

WASHINGTON – U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke announced today that the Laguna Elementary School in New Laguna, New Mexico, will receive \$26.2 million for the construction of a new school.

“As Secretary of the Interior, I am responsible for the education of 48,000 native children in the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) school system, and that is an honor and responsibility I take very seriously,” **said Secretary Ryan Zinke**. “I applaud the Laguna Department Of Education’s commitment to providing a first class education to its students and for developing a successful plan. An investment in our youth is an investment in our future. I am hopeful that the proposal President Trump and I put forward to rebuild Indian schools is passed by Congress.”

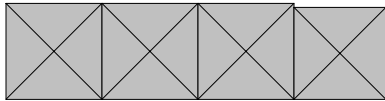
“The Pueblo of Laguna is realizing a dream come true with the award to replace the previously condemned Laguna Elementary School,” **said Laguna Pueblo Governor Virgil Siow**. “Our Pueblo Administration and Council has worked for many years to obtain funding for a modern, state of the art school to replace the current school. Finally, our children will learn in a safe and modern environment. This school will benefit future generations to come. We are very grateful to the Creator for this blessing and the opportunity for our community.”

The Laguna Elementary School replacement project will support the construction for an

education facility serving approximately 220 students in grades ranging from kindergarten to fifth. The school is slated to be built on a 48,200 square foot campus and includes a Cultural Arts classroom, an additional computer lab, permanent stage space and increased allotments for Special Education therapy and resource classrooms. The school will be designed for sustainability and is expected to achieve the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver certification status.

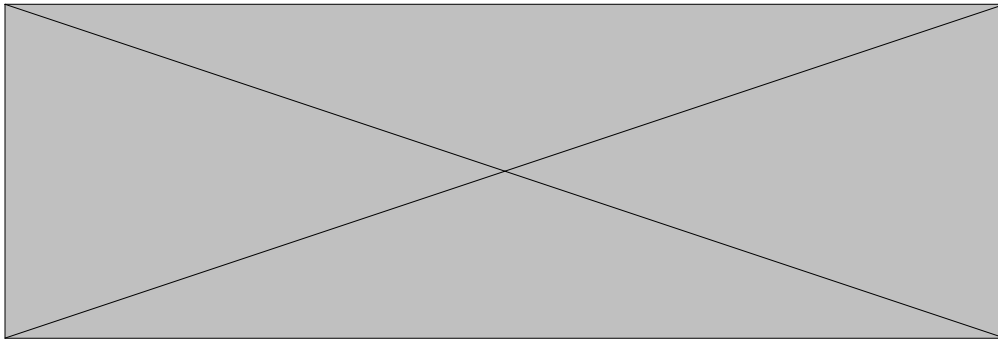
In 2016, through the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) replacement school construction process, Indian Affairs selected 10 schools for replacement. Laguna Elementary School was the first 2016 NCLB School to complete the planning phase. The Pueblo of Laguna has elected to manage the project using a design-build contract for their new school utilizing an amendment to their existing education grant.

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From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-05-21T15:46:26-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Proposes Expansion of Hunting and Fishing Opportunities at 30 of America's National Wildlife Refuges
Received: 2018-05-21T15:47:05-04:00

Expanding hunting and fishing on public lands for ALL Americans to enjoy the great outdoors...



Date: May 21, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Proposes Expansion of Hunting and Fishing Opportunities at 30 of America's National Wildlife Refuges

WASHINGTON – Continuing his efforts to increase access to public lands, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke today announced a proposal to open more than 248,000 acres to new or expanded hunting and fishing opportunities at 30 national wildlife refuges.

Opportunities include places like Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge in Illinois and Wisconsin, and deer hunting in Philadelphia at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge being proposed for the first time. The proposal also outlines expanded hunting and fishing opportunities at 136 national wildlife refuges. If finalized, this would bring the number of units of the [National Wildlife Refuge System](#) where the public may hunt to 377, and the number where fishing would be permitted to 312.

“As stewards of our public lands, Interior is committed to opening access wherever possible for hunting and fishing so that more families have the opportunity to pass down this American heritage,” **Secretary Zinke said**. “These 30 refuges will provide incredible opportunities for American sportsmen and women across the country to access the land and connect with wildlife.”

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) proposal would open more new acres to hunting and fishing than in the past and takes steps to simplify regulations to more closely match state hunting and fishing regulations. The changes would be implemented in time for the upcoming 2018-2019 hunting seasons.

Hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities contributed more than \$156 billion in economic activity in communities across the United States in 2016 according to the Service's [National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation](#), published every five years. More than 101 million Americans – 40 percent of the U.S. population 16 and older – pursue wildlife-related recreation, such as hunting, fishing and birding.

"Ensuring public lands are open for multiple uses supports local economies and provides important opportunities for recreation. Further, this proposal means that families and individuals across our nation will be better able to participate in our nation's tradition of hunting and fishing. We appreciate Secretary Zinke and the Interior Department for advancing this priority, and we will continue to work to improve access to public lands for our sportsmen," **said Senator John Hoeven.**

"Public lands should be open for the public to enjoy," **said Chairman Rob Bishop of Utah.** "The Department of the Interior's latest decision to expand acreage and access for hunting and fishing on wildlife refuges was the right move. Secretary Zinke's decision will help our economy grow and enable those who hunt and fish to spend more time catching game and less time caught in red tape."

"North Dakota is a sportsman's paradise. The decision to expand access to public lands by opening more than 248,000 acres across the nation to hunting and fishing will provide new economic opportunities for local communities as well as open up new areas for anglers and hunters," **said Congressman Kevin Cramer.** "For the first time, the J. Clark Salyer and Lostwood National Wildlife Refuges will be open to moose hunting. I commend the Secretary's decision and look forward to working with the department."

"Hunters, anglers and shooting sports enthusiasts play a crucial role in funding the management and conservation of North America's wildlife," **said Service Principal Deputy Director Greg Sheehan.** "We are providing sportsmen and women with more access to our national wildlife refuges and streamlining regulations to more closely align with our state partners. And that's good news for our customers."

The Service manages hunting and fishing programs to ensure sustainable wildlife populations while also offering other traditional wildlife-dependent recreation on public lands, such as wildlife watching and photography. The Refuge System is an unparalleled network of 566 national wildlife refuges and 38 wetland management districts. There is a national wildlife refuge within an hour's drive of most major metropolitan areas.

"The proposed expansion of hunting and fishing opportunities through working partnership with the states is a demonstration of Secretary Zinke's commitment to our nation's outdoor heritage and the conservation community," **said Virgil Moore, President of the Association of the Fish and Wildlife Agencies and Director of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.** "These efforts reaffirm the tremendous value of quality wildlife habitat and outdoor recreational opportunities, including hunting and fishing, in connecting millions of Americans to the outdoors."

"We applaud Secretary Zinke and the Fish and Wildlife Service for their continued commitment

to increasing opportunities for hunting and fishing within the National Wildlife Refuge System,” **said Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation President Jeff Crane.** “We look forward to continuing to work with the Department of Interior on increasing access for sportsmen and women.”

Hunting and/or fishing will expand or be opened on the following refuges:

Arkansas

- Felsenthal National Wildlife Refuge: Expand existing migratory game bird, upland game and big game hunting.

California

- San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge: Expand existing migratory game bird hunting, and open sport fishing for the first time.

Florida

- Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge: Open wild turkey hunting for the first time.

Illinois

- Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge: Expand existing migratory game bird, upland game and big game hunting.

Illinois and Missouri

- Great River National Wildlife Refuge: Expand existing migratory game bird, upland game and big game hunting.

Illinois and Wisconsin

- Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge: Open migratory game bird, upland game and big game hunting to all legal species in the State of Illinois.

Indiana

- Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge: Expand existing migratory game bird, upland game, big game hunting and sport fishing

Maine

- [Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge](#): Expand existing migratory game bird, upland game and big game hunting.
- [Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge](#): Expand existing white-tailed deer and wild turkey hunting.

Maine and New Hampshire

- [Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge](#): Open wild turkey hunting for the first time, and expand existing migratory game bird, upland game and big game hunting.

Maryland

- [Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge](#): Expand existing migratory game bird and big game hunting.
- [Patuxent Research Refuge](#): Expand existing white-tailed deer and wild turkey hunting.

Michigan

- [Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge](#): Open hunting of certain migratory bird, small game, and furbearers, and expand existing migratory game bird and big game hunting.

Minnesota

- [Glacial Ridge National Wildlife Refuge](#): Open certain gamebird and small mammal hunting for the first time, and expand existing migratory game bird, upland game and big game hunting.

Montana

- [Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge](#): Expand existing big game hunting.
- [Swan River National Wildlife Refuge](#): Open big game hunting for the first time.

New Jersey

- [Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge](#): Open wild turkey and squirrel hunting for the first time, and expand existing migratory game bird and big game hunting.

New Jersey and New York

- [Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge](#): Expand existing migratory game bird hunting and sport fishing.

New Mexico

- Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge: Open Eurasian-collared dove and Gambel's quail hunting, and expand existing migratory game bird hunting.

North Dakota

- J. Clark Salyer National Wildlife Refuge: Open moose hunting for the first time.
- Lostwood National Wildlife Refuge: Open moose hunting for the first time.

Ohio

- Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge: Open white-tailed deer hunting for the first time.
- Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge: Open hunting of certain gamebirds, small mammals and furbearers for the first time, and expand existing migratory game bird and big game hunting.

Oregon

- Cold Springs National Wildlife Refuge: Expand existing migratory game bird, upland game and big game hunting.
- Upper Klamath National Wildlife Refuge: Expand existing migratory game bird hunting.
- William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge: Expand existing sport fishing.

Pennsylvania

- Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge: Expand existing migratory game bird, upland game and big game hunting.
- John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum: Open white-tailed deer hunting for the first time.

Utah

- Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge: Expand existing migratory game bird and upland game hunting.

Wisconsin

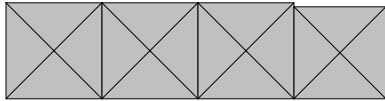
- Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge: Open hunting of certain gamebirds, small mammals and furbearers for the first time, and expand existing migratory game bird and big game hunting.

The Service will seek comments from the public on the proposed rule for 30 days, beginning with publication in the Federal Register in coming days. The notice will be available at www.regulations.gov, docket no. FWS-HQ-NWRS-2018-0020, and will include details on how to submit your comments. An interim copy of the proposed rule is now available at https://www.fws.gov/home/pdfs/Proposed_2018-2019_Hunt_Fish_Rule_signed.pdf.

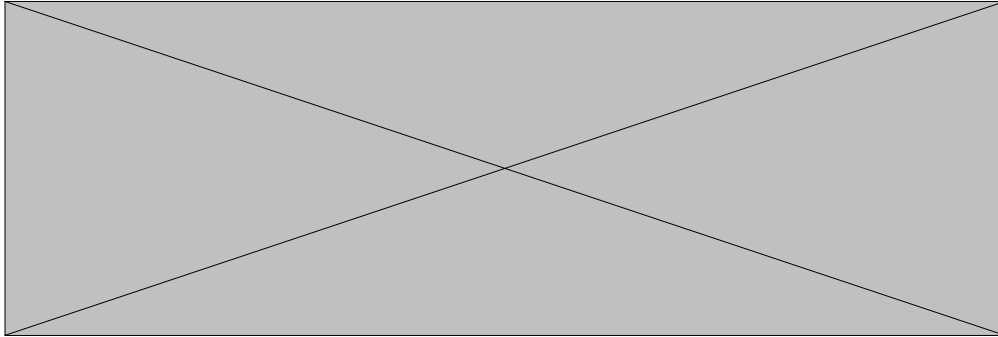
More than 53 million Americans visit refuges every year. National wildlife refuges provide vital habitat for thousands of species and access to world-class recreation, from fishing, hunting and boating to nature watching, photography and environmental education. In doing so, they support regional economies to the tune of \$2.4 billion dollars per year and support more than 35,000 jobs.

Under the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, the Service permits hunting and fishing along with four other types of wildlife-dependent recreation, including wildlife photography, environmental education, wildlife observation and interpretation, when they are compatible with an individual refuge's purpose and mission. Hunting, within specified limits, is currently permitted on 337 wildlife refuges and 37 wetland management districts. Fishing is currently permitted on 277 wildlife refuges and 34 wetland management districts.

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From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-05-22T10:46:14-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Appoints Three New Members to Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Review Committee
Received: 2018-05-22T10:47:06-04:00



Date: May 22, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Appoints Three New Members to Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Review Committee

WASHINGTON – U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke today announced the appointment of John Beaver, Honor K. Keeler, and Barnaby V. Lewis to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Review Committee.

The Review Committee, authorized by the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (NAGPRA) monitors, reviews, and assists in the implementation of certain requirements of the Act.

“I am grateful that John, Honor and Barnaby have agreed to serve on the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Review Committee,” **said Secretary Zinke**. “These roles are incredibly important in advising the Department on decisions on Native American human remains and cultural items. Their experience and guidance will be incredibly beneficial to the committee.”

- John Beaver was formerly the Curator of the Cultural Center and Archives for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma. He is an enrolled member of, and was nominated by, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma.
- Honor K. Keeler was formerly the Director and Founder of the International Repatriation Project at the Association on American Indian Affairs. Ms. Keeler is an enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation. Ms. Keeler was appointed from a list developed and consented to by all members of the Review Committee.

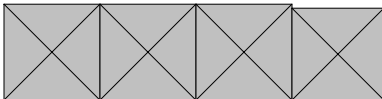
- Barnaby V. Lewis is Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for, and a member of, the Gila River Indian Community in Arizona. Mr. Lewis was nominated by the Gila River Indian Community, Ak-Chin Indian Community, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, and Tohono O’odham Nation.

Members of the seven-person committee are appointed by the Secretary to serve two- to four-year terms. The Secretary receives nominations from Indian tribes, Native Hawaiian organizations, traditional Native American religious leaders, and national museum and scientific organizations. With the additions of the three new members, there are six appointees on the committee. A seventh position will be filled this summer. The committee is chaired by Armand Minthorn.

Enacted in 1990, NAGPRA requires museums and federal agencies to inventory and identify Native American human remains and cultural items in their collections, and to consult with Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations regarding repatriation. Section 10 of the Act authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to award grants to assist in implementing provisions of the Act. The National NAGPRA Program is administered by the National Park Service.

For more information, visit www.nps.gov/nagpra/.

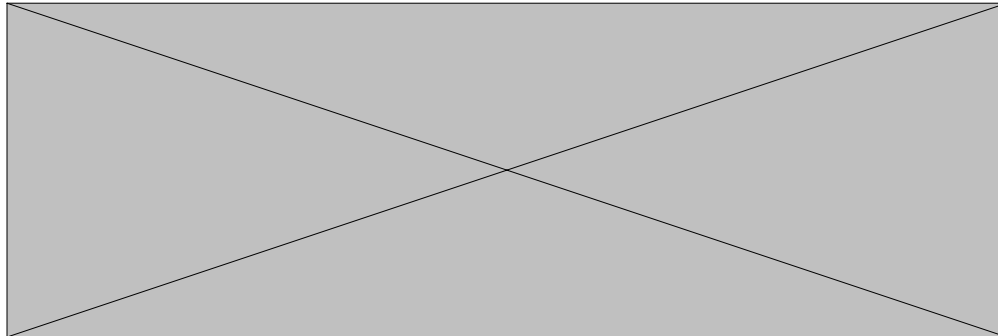
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From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-05-22T17:40:30-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Courtesy Copy: Secretary Zinke Announces Members of the Hunting and Shooting Sports Conservation Council
Received: 2018-05-22T17:41:09-04:00

Respecting and growing one of America's richest traditions, hunting and shooting sports...



Date: May 22, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Announces Members of the Hunting and Shooting Sports Conservation Council

WASHINGTON - Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke announced the newly appointed members of the Hunting and Shooting Sports Conservation Council. The Council was established on January 9, 2018, and is intended to provide the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture with advice regarding the establishment and implementation of existing and proposed policies and authorities with regard to wildlife and habitat conservation.

The Council will also examine ways to benefit wildlife resources; encourage partnership among the public, the sporting conservation organizations, state, tribal, territorial, and federal government; and benefit recreational hunting and recreational shooting sports.

"We have assembled here some of the best conservationists in America," **Secretary Zinke said.** "Over a century ago, Teddy Roosevelt established the American conservation ethic — best science, best practices, greatest good, longest term. These sportsmen carry on the American conservation ethic in the modern day. Bringing these experts together will be key to ensuring the American tradition of hunting and shooting, as well as the conservation benefits of these practices, carries on."

"America's hunters and recreational shooters have a champion in Secretary Ryan Zinke," **said Chris W. Cox, executive director of the National Rifle Association's Institute for**

Legislative Action. “Zinke is fighting for our sportsmen and women to have greater access to our public lands. I am pleased to work with the Trump Administration’s new Hunting and Shooting Sports Conservation Council to make it easier for Americans to enjoy our public lands.”

“I am honored to be nominated to this important federal advisory committee that will address issues and advance policies that benefit America’s hunters, recreational shooters, and other outdoor enthusiasts,” **said Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation President Jeff Crane.**

“I am humbled and honored by my appointment to the Hunting and Shooting Sports Conservation Council Federal Advisory Committee,” **said Senior Vice President and General Counsel for the National Shooting Sports Foundation Lawrence G. Keane.** “Comprised of national leaders throughout the hunting and recreational shooting communities, the HSSCC is widely regarded as one of the most effective and productive federal advisory committees across the federal government. As a member, I will work diligently to promote policies that expand and enhance access and opportunities to hunting and recreational shooting for all Americans. I am deeply appreciative of Secretary Zinke and Secretary Perdue for this extraordinary opportunity.”

“President Trump and Sec Zinke continue to make major positive structural changes to America’s land and wildlife conservation systems,” **said Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife Founder Don Peay.** “This new Council made up of the most accomplished hunter/conservationists in North America will assist in revitalizing conservation of our nation’s natural treasures for generations!”

“I am extremely honored to represent the archery industry and serve alongside such distinguished national conservation leaders on this important Council,” **said Vice President & Chief Conservation Officer, Archery Trade Associations Dan Forster.** “The incredible economic, environmental and social impacts derived from our nation’s hunters and shooters demands attention at the highest levels and I am excited to be a part of this national collaborative to serve, promote and invigorate hunters and shooting sports enthusiasts across America.”

“I am deeply honored and humbled to be selected as a member of the Hunting and Shooting Sports Conservation Council,” **said Former Chief ODNR Division of Wildlife Mike Budzik.** “I pledge my support and energy in service to the Administration, Secretary Zinke, the sportsmen and women and shooting sports participants of this great country. I will strive to listen to the grassroots conservation leaders, industry professionals and the dedicated biologists of the Department of the Interior to provide the best input possible”.

“The Council provides a unique and valuable forum to convey the needs of ducks and duck hunters to the most important policy makers in the United States,” **said Senior Vice President, Delta Waterfowl John Devney.** “It will provide an incredible opportunity to contribute to the nationwide dialog on hunting and conservation. We are honored to be selected and excited to be a part of the good work the Council will undertake”.

“I am honored to be appointed by the Secretaries to this extremely important council that provides advice on wildlife management, hunting and recognizing the role hunter conservationists have played for over 100 years.” **said CEO of Ducks Unlimited Dale Hall.**

“This is truly an honor for me and a tremendous opportunity to carry forward the critical conservation work that must occur for mule deer conservation and our hunting heritage,” **said President & CEO of the Mule Deer Foundation Miles Moretti**. “I look forward to working with my fellow members of the Council to advise Secretary Zinke and Secretary Perdue and the agencies that they oversee on the issues that will make the biggest impact for our western wildlife species and the future of hunting.”

“As a lifelong hunter and shooter I am deeply honored to serve on the Hunting and Shooting Sports Conservation Council,” **said Hunter Graham Hill**. “Throughout my life I have enjoyed and benefited from the rich hunting and shooting heritage of our great nation. Ensuring that heritage continues to play its critical role in wildlife conservation and management by ensuring hunting and shooting opportunities across the nation are preserved and enhanced for our citizens will be the noble and important work I look forward to with my fellow Council members”

“I am very pleased and honored to be appointed to this Council by Secretary Zinke,” **said Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Chief Conservation Officer Blake Henning**. “I look forward to representing the interests of big game and big game hunters as this Council does important work.”

“I am honored and look forward to contributing to the conversation with Secretary Zinke's newly formed Hunting and Shooting Sports Conservation Council,” **said National Co-Chair NRA Hunters Leadership Forum Trig French**. “With a lifelong passion for the shooting sports and hunting in our great outdoors, the opportunity to promote and expand access to sustainable hunting and shooting sports on public and private lands is a long-held goal. With rational and thoughtful dialogue among varied stakeholders, one can be hopeful that consensus can be reached resulting in the fair and wise use of our public lands for the benefit both of the present and future generations.”

“I appreciate the opportunity to work hand and glove with the Secretary, the staff at the Department of Interior and serve beside the brightest in the conservation arena, while we work together to advance the cause of conservation in this country,” **said hunter John Green**. “We have a unique opportunity to impact the future of hunting and fishing going forward, while being thoughtful about the resources available, for the betterment of our outdoors people”.

“I'm honored to be part of the Hunting & Shooting Sports Conservation Council. I look forward to bringing my ideas to the table and making a positive impact for the next generation of hunters and outdoors men and women,” **said Eva Shockey, Author of “Taking Aim” and Outdoor Channel Host**.

“What an exciting time for our hunting and shooting sports! This Shooting Sports Council is yet another way Secretary Zinke and staff is making the expansion of our great American heritage a priority,” **said Smith & Wesson Pro Shooter and Consultant, Julie Golob**. “It's an honor for me to be a part of it alongside so many influential and truly passionate leaders in outdoors sports.”

“As a lifelong hunter I'm honored to have this opportunity to work with the Hunting and Shooting Sports Conservation Council on important wildlife conservation issues and raising

public awareness of the many benefits of hunting and outdoor sports,” **said President of the Liberty and Property Rights Coalition David Spady**. “Hunters play a critical role in wildlife habitat conservation and provide necessary resources to help maintain our public lands and wildlife populations. It’s imperative the public understand the value hunting and sport shooting activities provide to the economy, physical fitness, wildlife conservation, recreation activity and generational family bonding.”

“I am honored to be asked by Secretary Zinke to serve on the federal advisory council,” **said Bob Model, Chairman of the Boone and Crockett Club**. “Sportsmen and women are vital stakeholders in federal land management. Secretary Zinke has made it a priority to improve public access to hunt on federal lands, and I look forward to serving on the Council to provide our best advice on how to tackle this quickly.”

"All Americans reap the benefits when we recover wildlife populations, expand opportunities to enjoy our outdoor heritage, and conserve our unrivaled natural resources,” **said President and CEO, National Wildlife Federation Collin O’Mara**. “As the parent of two young daughters and the head of America’s largest wildlife conservation organization, I’m grateful for the opportunity to serve on the Council and look forward to working with the Secretary to ensure that we pass on a nation with abundant wildlife and unparalleled outdoor experiences.”

The Council is strictly advisory and the duties will consist of providing recommendations for implementation of Executive Order No. 13443 (E.O.): Facilitation of Hunting Heritage and Wildlife Conservation, Secretarial Order No. 3347: Conservation Stewardship and Outdoor Recreation, and Secretarial Order No. 3356 (S.O.): Hunting, Fishing, Recreational Shooting, and Wildlife Conservation Opportunities and Coordination with States, Tribes, and Territories.

Recommendations from the Council to the Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Agriculture shall include, but not be limited to policies and programs that:

- Conserve and restore wetlands, agricultural lands, grasslands, forests and rangeland habitats;
- Promote opportunities and expand access to hunting and shooting sports on public and private lands;
- Encourages hunting and shooting safety by developing ranges on public lands;
- Recruit and retain new shooters and hunters;
- Increase public awareness of the importance of wildlife conservation and the social and economic benefits of hunting and shooting;
- Encourage coordination among the public, hunting and shooting sports community, wildlife conservation groups, state, tribal, territorial, and federal government.

The members of the Hunting and Shooting Sports Conservation Council are listed below:

MEMBER NAME ORGANIZATION

Mike Budzik Retired Chief of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Chris Cox	Executive Director of the National Rifle Association's Institute for Legislative Action (NRA-ILA)
Jeff Crane	President of Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF)
John Devney	Vice President of U.S. Policy for Delta Waterfowl
Dan Forester	Vice President and Chief Conservation Officer for the Archery Trade Association
Ward "Trig" French	Chairman of the Hunter's Leadership Forum
Julie Golob	World and National Shooting Champion, Team Smith & Wesson
John Green	CEO of Crossroads Strategies; Board member of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation; Former Policy Advisor for the Senate Majority Leader- specifically in conservation policy
Dale Hall	CEO of Ducks Unlimited and former Director of the USFWS
Blake Henning	Chief Conservation Officer for the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Graham Hill	Principal and Founding Partner- Ice Miller Strategies LLC; Board of Directors for the National Rifle Association
Larry Keane	Senior Vice President for Governmental and Public Affairs, Assistant Secretary, and General Counsel for National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF); General Counsel, Corporate Secretary for Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers Institutes, Inc (SAAMI); Serves on Board of Directors for Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
Bob Model	Former President of the Boone and Crockett Club
Miles Moretti	President and CEO of the Mule Deer Foundation and a previous Deputy Director of Utah's Division of Wildlife Resources
Collin O'Mara	President and CEO of the National Wildlife Federation
Donald Peay	Founder and Former CEO of the Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife (SFW);
Eva Shockey	Co-Host of Jim Shockey's Hunting Adventures on Outdoor Channel
David Spady	President of the Liberty and Property Rights Coalition

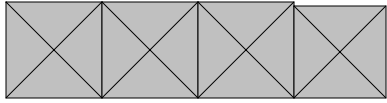
ALTERNATES

Jack Atcheson	Board member of the National Wild Sheep Foundation
John Banks	Director of the Department of Natural Resources for the Penobscot Indian Nation
Becky Humphries	CEO of National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf)
Rob Keck	Director of Conservation for Bass Pro Shops
Paul Phillips	President, Founder, Co-owner- Pac/West Communications
Keith Tidball	Professor- Cornell University, Natural Resources and Environment
Jana Waller	Host of Skull Bound TV on Sportsmen Channel and Hunting Guide
Kristy Titus	Host of Pursue the Wild; Board Member of the National Rifle Association's Hunting and Wildlife Conservation Committee
Dianna Muller	Captain of Team Benelli; World and National Champion competitor shooter
Wayne Hubbard	Co-Founder of Urban American Outdoors TV (UAOTV)
Mark Williams	Commissioner of Georgia's Department of Natural Resources

The Council will meet approximately twice a year, and at such other times as designated by the Designated Federal Officer. The Council will terminate 2 years from the date the charter is filed, unless, prior to that date, it is renewed in accordance with the provisions of Section 14 of the FACA. The Council will not meet or take any action without a valid current Charter.

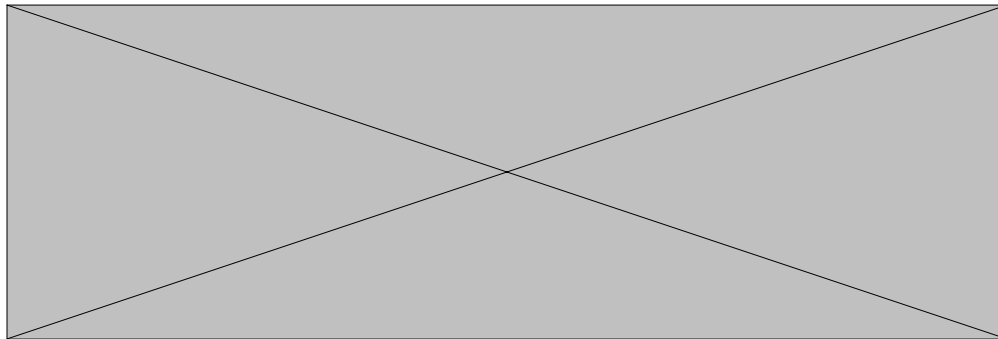
The Council is established to further the provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742a), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701), the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 668dd), other Acts applicable to specific bureaus, and Executive Order 13443, "Facilitation of Hunting Heritage and Wildlife Conservation." The Council is regulated by the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C. Appendix 2.

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From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-05-24T17:00:17-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: CORRECTION: Interior Proposes Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks as Nomination to World Heritage List
Received: 2018-05-24T17:01:29-04:00

DOI helping make Ohio world famous...



Date: May 24, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Interior Proposes Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks as Nomination to World Heritage List

WASHINGTON – The Department of the Interior today announced the selection of the “Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks” in Ohio—a group of ancient American Indian sites including both Hopewell Culture National Historical Park and related properties owned by the State of Ohio/Ohio History Connection—as a proposed nomination by the United States to the World Heritage List.

The list recognizes cultural and natural sites of universal importance such as the Grand Canyon in Arizona, the Taj Mahal in India, and the Galápagos Islands in Ecuador. There are 1,073 sites in 167 of the 193 countries that have signed the World Heritage Convention—including 23 World Heritage Sites in the United States.

“World Heritage Sites are unique places of natural, historic and cultural importance that are treasured by people of all nations,” **said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke.** “The remarkable legacy of the Hopewell culture’s people in Ohio connects us to those who inhabited our land thousands of years ago. The World Heritage Convention offers us a way for the world to recognize their value.”

The “Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks” properties include:

- Hopewell Culture National Historical Park, including the Mound City Group, Hopewell Mound Group, Seip Earthworks, High Bank Earthworks, and Hopeton Earthworks (Ross County)
- Newark Earthworks State Memorial, including the Octagon Earthworks, Great Circle Earthworks, and Wright Earthworks (Licking County)
- Fort Ancient State Memorial (Warren County)

During the Middle Woodland period (1,500 – 2,100 years ago) the Hopewell people built enormous, landscape-scale geometric earthworks over a large area of what is now southern Ohio, in an extraordinary expression of cooperative cultural activity. This area was the nexus of interaction with people as far away as the Yellowstone basin and Florida. The earthwork complexes incorporate precise geometry, with circles, squares, octagons and freeform enclosures intricately related by precise and standard units of measure. These are among the largest earthworks in the world that are not fortifications or defensive structures. They also demonstrate sophisticated astronomical observation, and contain extensive deposits of artifacts that are among the most outstanding art objects produced in ancient North America.

“I am pleased that the Department of the Interior has selected the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks as a proposed nomination to the World Heritage List,” **said Senator Rob Portman**. “This site contains universal cultural value and tells the story of the Hopewell people who lived more than 2,000 years ago. The architecture, landscape, and structures were important ceremonial centers for the entire continent and its listing would help increase tourism and visitation to the site in southern Ohio. While I support the U.S.’s decision to withdraw from UNESCO and stand strong with our ally, Israel, I am pleased that the Department is contributing to the protection of the world’s most important sites like the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks.”

“Ohio’s contributions to this nation’s history include eight presidents, the birth of aviation, and countless advancements in military and agriculture. But the history extends far beyond 1803, and Hopewell Mounds is evidence of that,” **said Congressman Steve Stivers**. “These earthworks celebrate the incredible contributions that American Indians have made to our country, from Ohio to Yellowstone and Florida. I’m thrilled that Interior sees the value in this site and am hopeful that UNESCO will agree and add Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks to the World Heritage List.”

“I pledge my support for the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks as a United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site,” **said State Representative Gary Scherer**. “World Heritage designation brings not only international recognition, but (also) huge increases to international and domestic tourism and job creation.”

“I am excited to support the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks as they take their next step towards being designated a World Heritage Site,” **said Senator Bob Peterson**. “I am grateful that others are realizing the history of Ohio, and really North America, that flows through this region.”

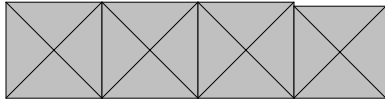
The Department of the Interior is undertaking this effort with full cooperation of each property's owners and managers, including the National Park Service, the State of Ohio, and the Ohio History Connection, the state's nonprofit history partner.

The final decision on inclusion on the list will be made by the World Heritage Committee, composed of representatives from 21 nations elected from the members of the World Heritage Convention, and advised by the International Council on Monuments and Sites. The date of the actual submission of a nomination will depend on when the detailed documentation package is completed. The Department of the Interior will consult with the Federal Interagency Panel for World Heritage on the completed document before making a final decision to submit it to the World Heritage Committee.

The National Park Service manages all or part of 18 of the 23 World Heritage Sites in the United States. It is also the principal government agency responsible for implementing the World Heritage Convention on behalf of the Department of the Interior and in cooperation with the Department of State.

Inclusion of a site in the World Heritage List does not affect U.S. sovereignty or management over the sites, which remain subject only to U.S. law. Detailed information on the World Heritage Program and the process for the selection of U.S. sites can be found at <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/internationalcooperation/worldheritage.htm>.

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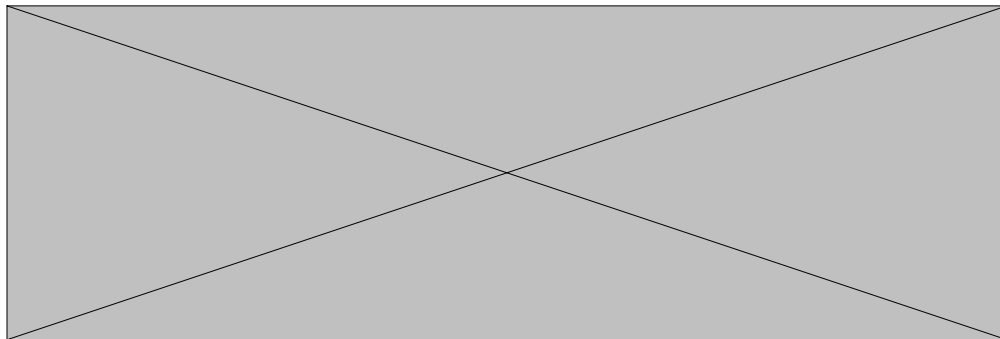


From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-05-25T17:56:30-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Applauds Presidential Action Supporting Public Lands Outfitters and Guides
Received: 2018-05-25T17:57:12-04:00

The exemption from this E.O ensures that outdoor recreation on public lands is accessible for ALL Americans.

Happy Memorial Day to you and your families!!

To all those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for this great nation, and to the families who have endured that tremendous loss... May God bless you and may God continue to bless the United States of America!!



Date: May 25, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Applauds Presidential Action Supporting Public Lands Outfitters and Guides

WASHINGTON - U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke today applauded President Donald J. Trump's exemption from Executive Order 13658 for Recreational Services on Federal Lands. The Presidential exemption applies only to outfitters and guides who operate on Federal lands and does not apply to lodging, food service, or other businesses that operate on Federal lands, such as national parks, monuments, recreation areas, and other areas. The order was signed ahead of Memorial Day weekend, which is the unofficial start to peak season for many guides and outfitters.

“President Donald J. Trump is a businessman and a job creator who knows that government one-size-fits-all approaches usually end up fitting nobody. The President’s Executive Order, 'Exemption from Executive Order 13658 for Recreational Services on Federal Lands,' gives more flexibility to small guides and outfitters that operate in National Parks and other public lands,” **said Secretary Zinke**. “The order will have a positive effect on rural economies and American families, allowing guides and outfitters to bring tourists out on multi-day hiking,

fishing, hunting, and camping expeditions, without enduring costly burdens. The outdoor recreation sector is a multi-billion dollar economic engine, and the more people able to enjoy our public lands, the better.”

“Our sincere appreciation to President Trump and Secretary Zinke for this job-saving action. Because we are in the backcountry 24/7 and on duty much or all of that time, E.O. 13658 was ill-conceived for businesses who cannot bring on a second or third shift to control overtime,” **said David Brown, Vice President, America Outdoors Association, a national association of outfitters and guides.**

Outdoor recreation accounted for 2-percent of the United States economy, or \$373.7 billion, in 2016, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis. Of that, \$59.4 billion in activity is attributed to recreational vehicles, motorcycle, and motorized recreation enthusiasts. More than \$38 billion is generated from fishing and boating. Hunting, shooting, and trapping contributes more than \$15 billion to the economy. In all, more than 4 million people are employed in industries related to outdoor recreation.

“Today’s action by President Trump and Secretary Zinke removed what was an impossible compliance issue and therefore a monumental liability for the nations Guides and Outfitters. Attending to the health safety and welfare of clients on an outfitted trip begins at the trailhead and ends days later when everyone has safely returned; compliance with time accounting measures required by E.O. 13658 was impossible in this work environment,” **said Mac Minard, Executive Director of the Montana Outfitters and Guides Association and Chairman of the Professional Outfitters and Guides of America.** “On behalf of the 5,000 Outfitter businesses represented by the Professional Outfitters and Guides of America we offer our appreciation for the leadership of Secretary Zinke and the action of President Donald Trump. Because of this action, thousands will be able to enjoy and experience the natural wonders found in our National Treasures that are our Federal Public Lands.”

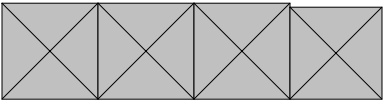
“Fishing guides play a significant role in ensuring Americans have opportunities to enjoy our nation’s tremendous fisheries resources, and in helping to support recreational fishing’s \$115 billion economic impact,” **said Glenn Hughes, President of the American Sportfishing Association.** “We applaud President Trump for ensuring these services are not subject to harmful and unnecessary regulations, and for his continued leadership in support of the entire outdoor recreation community.”

National Parks are major economic engines for local communities that generate around \$36 billion in economic output and are responsible for \$18 billion in visitor spending. Many parks support outfitter and guide operations for guided hikes, river trips, and other expeditions. Some recreational opportunities at national parks, especially in backcountry areas, require planning, experience, and special equipment. Authorized guides and outfitters make it possible for park visitors who do not have these resources or skills to enjoy activities like horseback riding, river rafting, or snowmobile tours in some of the more remote and scenic areas of national parks.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) oversees 16 National Conservation Areas, like Red Rock Canyon in Las Vegas, 27 National Monuments, and other public lands like California's 18-acre Piedras Blancas Light Station Outstanding Natural Area. In 2017, BLM lands received more

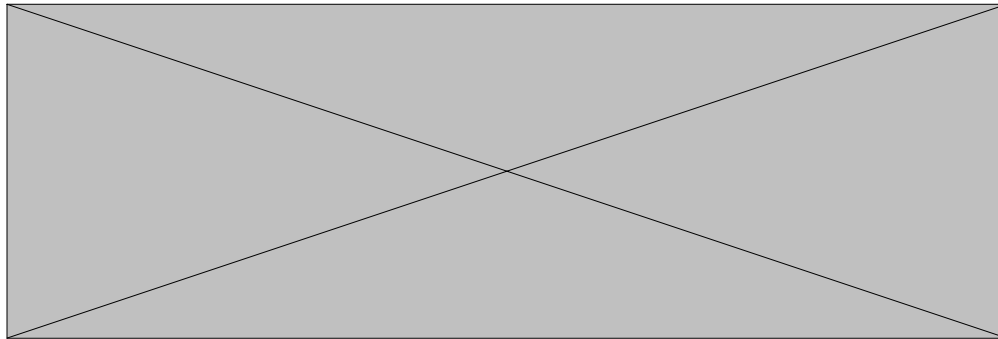
than 67.4 million recreation-related visits. In 2017, the BLM issued commercial permits to more than 1,000 outfitters and guides.

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From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-05-29T16:39:32-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Interior and National Park Service Announce more than \$60 Million in Historic Preservation Grants to States and Tribes
Received: 2018-05-29T16:41:40-04:00

Offshore energy dominance helps fund historic preservation...



Date: May 29, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Interior and National Park Service Announce more than \$60 Million in Historic Preservation Grants to States and Tribes

Offshore Drilling Funds Directed to Help Protect U.S. and Tribal Historic Places, Culture and Traditions

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Department of the Interior and the National Park Service (NPS) today announced \$48.9 million in historic preservation grants for U.S. states, territories, and partnering nations, and \$11.4 million for historic preservation grants to 175 tribal historic preservation offices.

"The Department of the Interior and the National Park Service are committed to preserving U.S. and tribal history and heritage," **said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke**. "Fees collected from drilling on the Outer Continental Shelf help fund important conservation tools like these grants. Through valuable partnerships we are able to assist communities and tribes in ensuring the diverse historic places, culture and traditions that make our country unique are protected for future generations."

Administered by the National Park Service, these funds are appropriated annually by Congress from the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF). Since its inception in 1977, the HPF has provided more than \$1.8 billion in grants to states, tribes, local governments, and non-profit organizations. Funding is supported by Outer Continental Shelf oil lease revenues, not tax dollars, with intent to mitigate the loss of a non-renewable resource to benefit the preservation of other irreplaceable resources.

“The National Park Service works closely with states and tribes to preserve our nation’s diverse history and cultural heritage,” **National Park Service Deputy Director Dan Smith said.** “These grants help promote historic preservation at the community level, including funding much needed restoration and maintenance to these special places.”

The HPF grants fund preservation programs at state offices and ensure support of local preservation with a required 10% pass-through to Certified Local Governments via competitive subgrants. Examples of state and local work accomplished with this annual funding include:

- After Hurricane Matthew, the Georgia Historic Preservation Division coordinated an agency-wide initiative to train employees on the national Incident Command System and as a result, assumed a leadership role following Hurricane Irma in conducting agency-wide after-action reviews for regional incidents, and piloted a report on historic preservation response that was distributed to Georgia policy makers.
- The Montana Historical Society leveraged National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, state, and private funding to overhaul its statewide geodatabase of cultural resources, which now holds over 59,000 historic and pre-contact sites and 37,000 survey and cultural resource studies. The data will speed the review and compliance process associated with federal projects.
- The Massachusetts Historical Commission completed a historic context focused on resources associated with Chinese immigrants and Chinese Americans in the city of Boston, which has led to National Register listing these underrepresented resources in New England.

The HPF grants fund tribal preservation programs and assist Tribes in the preservation of their cultural heritage and promote the protection of historically significant sites. Examples of tribal efforts and accomplishments with this annual funding include:

- Funding for the annual Cultural Hualapai River Monitoring Trip by the Hualapai Tribal Historic Preservation Office in Arizona supports education outreach programs. Each year the trip engages youth and elders to monitor vegetation, archaeological sites, and traditional cultural places, and discuss traditional ecological knowledge about the Grand Canyon.
- The Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians Tribal Historic Preservation Office in Wisconsin is working on a site monitoring schedule and developing a management plan for 31 historic maple sugarbush sites where Ojibwe families moved each spring and camped for the production of maple syrup.
- Four partner Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, the Narragansett Tribe, the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), the Mashantucket (Eastern) Pequot, and the Mohegan, collaboratively consulted with federal agencies on federal undertakings where ceremonial stone landscapes were in danger of impacts. The result was submission of a National Register of Historic Places draft nomination entitled “Indigenous American Ceremonial Stone Landscapes of the Northeast.”

For more information about the National Park Service historic preservation programs and

grants, please visit www.nps.gov/stlpg/.

State Historic Preservation Office Grants

State	Amount	State	Amount
Alabama	\$ 858,103	Montana	\$ 817,809
Alaska	\$ 1,062,416	Nebraska	\$ 818,251
American Samoa	\$ 399,210	Nevada	\$ 775,515
Arizona	\$ 895,168	New Hampshire	\$ 640,455
Arkansas	\$ 783,535	New Jersey	\$ 967,486
California	\$ 1,579,932	New Mexico	\$ 820,716
Colorado	\$ 925,024	New York	\$ 1,436,726
Connecticut	\$ 763,826	North Carolina	\$ 969,074
Delaware	\$ 541,155	North Dakota	\$ 705,578
District of Columbia	\$ 538,039	Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands	\$ 414,877

Florida	\$ 1,082,678	Ohio	\$ 1,162,212
Federated States of Micronesia	\$ 429,730	Oklahoma	\$ 866,119
Georgia	\$ 953,493	Oregon	\$ 903,609
Guam	\$ 413,040	Palau	\$ 249,048
Hawaii	\$ 591,360	Pennsylvania	\$ 1,242,810
Idaho	\$ 760,515	Puerto Rico	\$ 666,772
Illinois	\$ 1,203,263	Rhode Island	\$ 595,644
Indiana	\$ 958,392	South Carolina	\$ 790,910
Iowa	\$ 884,264	South Dakota	\$ 730,843
Kansas	\$ 877,307	Tennessee	\$ 887,274
Kentucky	\$ 848,523	Texas	\$ 1,408,576
Louisiana	\$ 864,288	Utah	\$ 804,018

Maine	\$ 735,596	Vermont	\$ 590,381
Republic of the Marshall Islands	\$ 249,048	Virginia	\$ 935,975
Maryland	\$ 831,006	Virgin Islands	\$ 419,485
Massachusetts	\$ 959,479	Washington	\$ 965,815
Michigan	\$ 1,170,481	West Virginia	\$ 732,959
Minnesota	\$ 986,092	Wisconsin	\$ 995,082
Mississippi	\$ 773,236	Wyoming	\$ 713,890
Missouri	\$ 978,892		
		Total	\$48,925,000

Tribal Historic Preservation Office Grants

Tribe	Amount
Absentee Shawnee Tribe	\$57,633
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	\$61,076

Aroostook Band of Micmacs	\$58,338
Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	\$69,986
Bay Mills Indian Community	\$60,381
Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria	\$55,610
Big Pine Paiute Tribe of Owens Valley	\$56,763
Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians of the Big Valley Rancheria	\$56,977
Bishop Paiute Tribe	\$57,974
Blackfeet Nation	\$84,697
Blue Lake Rancheria Tribe of Indians	\$55,810
Bois Forte Band of Chippewa Indians	\$70,133
Bridgeport Indian Colony	\$55,776
Buena Vista Rancheria Me Wuk Indians of California	\$55,669

Burns Paiute Tribe	\$58,138
Caddo Tribe of Oklahoma	\$55,849
Cahuilla Band of Indians	\$63,629
Catawba Indian Nation	\$58,175
Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria	\$55,801
Cherokee Nation	\$66,216
Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes	\$62,126
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe	\$88,063
Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's Reservation	\$69,826
Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana	\$57,218
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma	\$63,206
Citizen Potawatomi	\$58,248

Coeur d'Alene Tribe	\$75,588
Colorado River Indian Tribes of the Colorado River Indian Reservation	\$73,873
Comanche Nation	\$58,812
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Indian Nation	\$83,554
Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation	\$83,991
Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation	\$60,592
Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation	\$84,025
Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw	\$56,124
Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Indian Community of Oregon	\$62,227
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation	\$73,178
Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation in Oregon	\$78,722

Coquille Indian Tribe	\$61,153
Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana	\$58,205
Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians	\$60,249
Crow Creek Sioux Tribe	\$74,064
Crow Tribe of Indians	\$88,056
Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians	\$55,733
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians	\$66,957
Eastern Shawnee of Oklahoma	\$57,651
Elk Valley Rancheria	\$57,109
Enterprise Rancheria of Maidu Indians	\$55,776
Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria	\$56,677
Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe	\$59,232
Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	\$69,161

Forest County Potawatomi Community	\$62,524
Fort Belknap Indian Community	\$78,663
Fort Independence Indian Community of Paiute Indians of the Fort Independence Indian Reservation	\$57,462
Fort Peck Assiniboiné and Sioux Tribes	\$87,298
Gila River Indian Community	\$75,306
Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	\$66,415
Ho-Chunk Nation	\$59,302
Hoopa Valley	\$68,698
Hopland Band of Pomo Indians	\$59,153
Hualapai Tribe	\$81,486
Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska	\$62,507
Jena Band of Choctaw Indians	\$55,631

Jicarilla Apache Nation	\$80,631
Karuk Tribe	\$57,897
Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of Stewarts Point Rancheria	\$57,386
Keweenaw Bay Indian Community	\$66,871
Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin	\$68,165
Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	\$68,835
Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	\$56,831
Leech Lake Band of Chippewa Indians	\$78,887
Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians	\$58,331
Lower Sioux Indian Community	\$58,904
Lummi Nation	\$63,913
Makah Tribe	\$64,715

Mashantucket Western Pequot Tribe	\$58,810
Mechoopda (Chico Rancheria)	\$57,628
Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin	\$72,891
Mescalero Apache Tribe	\$76,518
Miami Tribe of Oklahoma	\$56,124
Middletown Rancheria of Pomo Indians	\$55,993
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians	\$69,319
Mohegan Tribe of Indians of Connecticut	\$57,355
Morongo Band of Mission Indians	\$65,242
Muscogee (Creek) Nation	\$61,290
Narragansett Indian Tribe	\$59,082
Navajo Nation	\$109,273
Nez Perce Tribe of Indians	\$79,735

Nooksack Tribe	\$56,792
Northern Arapaho Tribe	\$87,991
Northern Cheyenne Tribe	\$76,381
Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potowatomi	\$56,473
Oglala Sioux Tribe	\$87,014
Omaha Tribe of Nebraska	\$72,072
Oneida Nation of Wisconsin	\$61,501
Organized Village of Kake	\$54,826
Osage Nation	\$57,849
Otoe-Missouria Tribe of Oklahoma	\$59,758
Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma	\$56,300
Pala Band of Mission Indians	\$62,307
Passamaquoddy Tribe	\$70,284

Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma	\$58,730
Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians of the Pechanga Reservation	\$58,857
Penobscot Nation	\$68,184
Picayune Rancheria of the Chukchansi Indians	\$56,330
Pinoleville Pomo Nation	\$55,931
Pit River Tribe	\$62,821
Poarch Band of Creek Indians	\$56,593
Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians	\$59,933
Ponca Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma	\$59,164
Ponca Tribe of Nebraska	\$56,280
Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe	\$58,545
Prairie Island Indian Community in the State of Minnesota	\$59,357

Pueblo of Acoma	\$76,035
Pueblo of Isleta	\$75,906
Pueblo of Jemez	\$68,670
Pueblo of Laguna	\$77,015
Pueblo of Pojoaque	\$62,500
Pueblo of San Felipe	\$67,192
Pueblo of San Ildefonso	\$65,762
Pueblo of Santa Ana	\$67,987
Pueblo of Santa Clara	\$66,909
Pueblo of Tesuque	\$63,328
Pueblo of Zuni	\$76,551
Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe	\$76,673
Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma	\$58,464

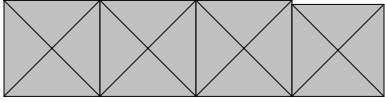
Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	\$62,963
Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians	\$80,028
Reno Sparks Indian Colony	\$63,120
Rosebud Sioux Tribe of Indians	\$80,908
Round Valley Indian Tribe	\$65,560
Saginaw Chippewa	\$70,500
Samish Indian Nation	\$55,751
San Carlos Apache Tribe	\$86,277
Santee Sioux Tribe	\$69,737
Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe	\$56,032
Seminole Tribe of Florida	\$68,636
Seneca Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma	\$58,581
Seneca Nation of Indians	\$66,860

Sherwood Valley Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians of California	\$57,394
Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians	\$56,285
Shoshone Tribe of the Wind River Reservation	\$87,991
Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate	\$63,731
Skokomish Indian Tribe	\$60,650
Spirit Lake Tribe of Fort Totten	\$73,099
Spokane Tribe of Indians	\$70,990
Squaxin Island Tribe	\$59,086
St. Regis Mohawk	\$63,301
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe	\$88,243
Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians	\$57,886
Stockbridge-Munsee Community	\$63,335
Suquamish Tribe	\$61,531

Susanville Indian Rancheria	\$58,268
Swinomish Indian Tribal Community	\$62,181
Thlopthlocco Tribal Town	\$59,354
Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation (Mandan, Hidatsa, & Arikara Nation)	\$81,622
Timbisha Shoshone Tribe	\$61,527
Tohono O'odham Nation	\$90,041
Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation	\$55,376
Tunica-Biloxi Indians of Louisiana	\$57,755
Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa	\$68,077
Twenty-nine Palms Band of Mission Indians	\$56,966
United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria	\$58,415
Upper Sioux Community	\$58,650

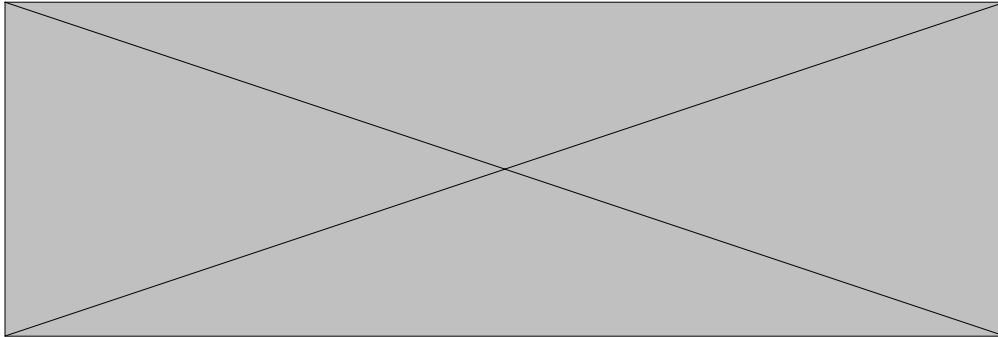
Ute Mountain Ute	\$78,360
Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah)	\$57,109
Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California	\$60,464
White Earth Band of Minnesota Chippewa	\$80,292
White Mountain Apache Tribe	\$85,395
Wichita and Affiliated Tribes	\$59,587
Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska	\$69,578
Wiyot Tribe	\$55,993
Wyandotte Nation	\$56,935
Yankton Sioux Tribe	\$66,953
Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation	\$58,281
Yurok Tribe	\$66,983
Total	\$11,485,000

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From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-05-31T11:04:21-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Trump Administration Taskforce Completes Successful Opioid Bust in Arizona
Received: 2018-05-31T11:04:55-04:00

Under President Trump's leadership, improved collaboration between law enforcement agencies empowers the "thin blue line" to keep Americans safe!



Date: May 31, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Trump Administration Taskforce Completes Successful Opioid Bust in Arizona

Over 9,000 Fentanyl pills and hundreds of pounds of other drugs seized

WASHINGTON - From May 15, 2018 through May 26, 2018, the Department of the Interior (DOI) Opioid Reduction Task Force conducted a Criminal Interdiction Operation in and around Tribal reservations in Arizona, seizing 9,050 Fentanyl pills, 48.2 pounds of methamphetamine, 1.2 pounds of heroin, 863 pounds of marijuana, one-half pound of cocaine, and \$30,000 in cash. In total, the drug bust yielded a seizure of 913.5 pounds of illegal narcotics, with a street value of approximately \$4,791,417.00, and led to 86 total arrests. The operation in Arizona is the second led by Interior's Joint Task Force, which Secretary Zinke established to help achieve President Donald Trump's mission to end the opioid epidemic.

"Our task force on opioids continues to distinguish itself as one of the finest operations in law enforcement today; I could not be more proud of these professionals," **said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke**. "It's heartbreaking to see the scale of the problem, and rather than further stigmatizing victims, we are cracking down on the dealers who are selling out our children, selling out our communities, and selling out our nation. I thank our partners in Indian Country, along with state and local law enforcement, for their dedication to this mission. These brave men and women are keeping the opioid dealers up at night, and with good reason; if you are trafficking these drugs, we will find you, arrest you, and bring you to justice."

"A drug-free Indian Country is a healthy Indian Country. I commend the efforts of our BIA

Division of Drug Enforcement agents, along with federal, tribal and state partners for successfully conducting this operation to eradicate drugs in tribal communities," **said John Tahsuda, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs.** "Only together can we protect our loved ones from the harmful effects of these devastating substances."

Significant Seizures:

Methamphetamine

33.2 pounds located in a vehicle tire with estimated street value of **\$1,754,212.00.** (Tohono O'odham Reservation)

Methamphetamine

15 pounds located in a natural void of a Toyota Scion with a street value of **\$790,952.00.** (Gila River Reservation)

Heroin

1.2 pounds located in a natural void of a Toyota Scion with a street value of **\$55,501.00.** (Gila River Reservation)

Cocaine

0.5 pounds located in a natural void of a Toyota Scion with a street value of **\$22,680.00.** (Gila River Reservation)

Marijuana

863.588 pounds (four separate seizures) with an estimated street value of **\$1,802,072.00.** (Tohono O'odham Reservation)

Fentanyl

Approximately 9,050 pills with an estimated street value of **\$366,000.00.** (Gila River Reservation)

Total Seizure:

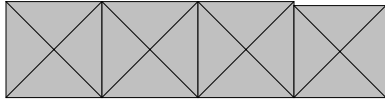
913.5 pounds of illegal narcotics and approximately 9,050 fentanyl pills with a total street value of approximately **\$4,791,417.00.**

Secretary Zinke has worked with tribes to carry out President Trump's directive to stop the opioid crisis, conducting dozens of tribal visits to see the affected communities, while listening and learning about how to fight the crisis. In starting new initiatives to fight the epidemic, such as the creation of the Joint Task Force, the Department of the Interior is committed to giving all resources required to fight drug abuse.

The DOI Task Force for the Interdiction Operation consisted of Special Agents from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Division of Drug Enforcement (DDE) and BIA K-9 uniformed officers, along with the Tohono O'odham Police Department, Homeland Security Investigations (HSI-Sells, Arizona), US Border Patrol (USBP), Pascua Yaqui Tribal Police Department, San Carlos Apache Tribal Police Department, Gila River Tribal Police Department, Native American

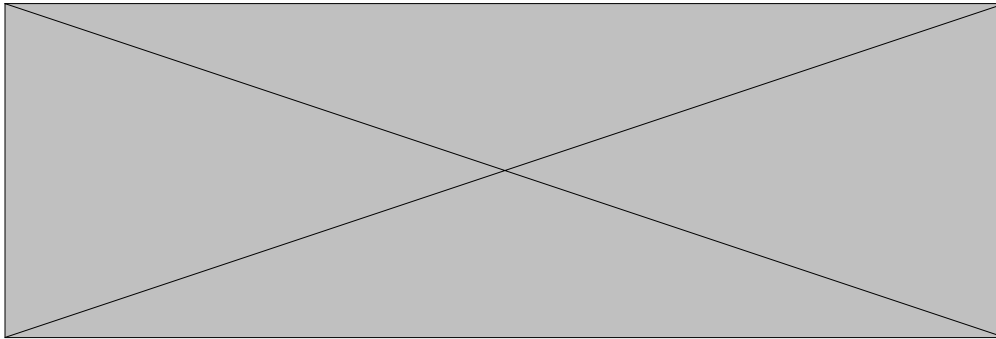
Targeted Investigations of Violent Enterprises (NATIVE) Task Force, and the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS). The Criminal Interdiction Operation focused on highways known for being high drug trafficking routes into and through Indian Country. This collaboration focused efforts on conducting high visibility enforcement operations with specialized drug interdiction teams.

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From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-06-01T10:56:48-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Announces 19 New National Recreation Trails in 17 States
Received: 2018-06-01T10:58:16-04:00

More ways for the American people to enjoy the great outdoors...



Date: May 30, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov
newsmedia@nps.gov

Secretary Zinke Announces 19 New National Recreation Trails in 17 States

New Trails Part of Administration's Effort to Increase Outdoor Recreational Opportunities, Access to Public Lands

WASHINGTON - Continuing his work to expand recreational opportunities on public lands, Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke today designated 19 national recreation trails in 17 states, adding more than 370 miles to the national recreation trails system of more than 1,000 trails in all 50 states.

“By designating these new national trails, we acknowledge the efforts of local communities to provide outdoor recreational opportunities that can be enjoyed by everyone,” **said Secretary Zinke**. “Our network of national trails provides easily accessible places to exercise and connect with nature in both urban and rural areas while boosting tourism and supporting economic opportunities across the country.”

On Saturday, June 2, hundreds of organized activities are planned as part of National Trails Day, including hikes, educational programs, bike rides, trail rehabilitation projects, festivals, paddle trips, and trail dedications. Trails of the National Recreation Trails system range from less than a mile to 485 miles in length and have been designated on federal, state, municipal and privately owned lands.

“The network of national recreation trails offers expansive opportunities for Americans to explore the great outdoors,” **said National Park Service Deputy Director Dan Smith**. “As we

celebrate the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System, I hope everyone will take advantage of a nearby national trail to hike or bike.”

While national scenic trails and national historic trails may only be designated by an act of Congress, national recreation trails may be designated by the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture in response to an application from the trail's managing agency or organization.

The National Recreation Trails Program is jointly administered by the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service, in conjunction with a number of Federal and not-for-profit partners, notably American Trails, which hosts the National Recreation Trails website.

Secretary Zinke designated the following trails this year as national recreation trails:

CALIFORNIA

Mt. Umunhum Trail

The Mt. Umunhum Trail offers 3.7 miles of moderate terrain to hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians as it passes through chaparral, pine and oak woodlands, over the headwaters of Guadalupe Creek, and climbs to one of the few publicly accessible peaks in the Bay Area. Views reveal the valley below, ridgelines, and nearby peaks. The trail emerges near the rocky summit where rare plants, lizards, birds, butterflies, and 360-degree vistas can be seen.

FLORIDA

Kathryn Abbey Hanna Park Trail System

In the City of Jacksonville’s Kathryn Abbey Hanna Park, 20.85 miles of hiking and biking trails provide a variety of experiences for all skill levels: from easy hiking and biking on the 1.1-mile Service Road, to hiking the 6.0-mile Wellness Trail, to biking the very difficult 3.9-mile off-road Z-Trail. The trail system provides access to the shoreline, the extensive dune system, and maritime hammocks.

KANSAS

Fort Larned Historic Nature Trail

On the grounds of Fort Larned National Historic Site, this 1.1-mile loop trail highlights history and nature. Fort Larned is located on the historic Santa Fe Trail and on the Central Flyway, a major bird migration corridor. There are fifteen stops along the trail corresponding to detailed information in the trail guide. A variety of habitats provide opportunities to view numerous species of birds.

MASSACHUSETTS

Fort River Birding and Nature Trail

Designed and constructed through the teamwork of multiple youth, community, and Refuge partners, the 1.1-mile Fort River Birding and Nature Trail is located in Hadley at the Fort River Division of the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge. The trail is universally accessible and functions as an outdoor visitor center, connecting people to nature by immersing them in diverse habitats from grasslands, riparian areas, and upland forests.

MICHIGAN

Iron Ore Heritage Trail

The Iron Ore Heritage Trail is a 47-mile, multi-use, year-round trail that connects the sites and stories of the Marquette Iron Range, a significant historical area where iron mines operated to serve the country during the Civil War, the Industrial Revolution, World War I, and World War II. The rail-trail connects Marquette to Republic in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

North Western State Trail

The 32 miles of the North Western State Trail connect the resort communities of Petoskey, Harbor Springs, Alanson, Pellston, and Mackinaw City in northern Michigan. Most of the universally accessible trail is located on the former Grand Rapids and Indiana line of the Pennsylvania Railroad. It is open year round to non-motorized users and to snowmobilers in winter.

MINNESOTA

Cannon Valley Trail

Paralleling the Cannon River, this 19.7-mile trail runs through diverse and spectacular scenery on a former Chicago Great Western Railroad line connecting the cities of Cannon Falls, Welch, and Red Wing in southeastern Minnesota. The trail is open in all seasons for bicycling, in-line skating, skateboarding, hiking, walking, and cross-country skiing.

MISSOURI

Wilson's Creek Greenway

The 5-mile Wilson's Creek Greenway is the newest extension of a growing urban trail network in Springfield that is powered by a long list of diverse partners. The trail is a vital connection between neighborhoods, schools, businesses, and shopping areas; it plays a role in boosting social interaction, community pride, and mental health. People of all ages and abilities can access the woods and pastureland of the Ozarks for active transportation, bicycling, walking, running, skating, and wheelchair use.

MONTANA

River's Edge Trail

The 53 miles of the River's Edge Trail in Great Falls is the perfect venue for biking, jogging,

inline skating, running, and walking. Nineteen miles of fully accessible paved urban trails link many local parks and attractions along both sides of the scenic Missouri River. Connecting to the urban trails are over thirty miles of natural trails on the South Shore and North Shore for the best mountain biking and hiking in the region.

NEW MEXICO

Climax Canyon Nature Trail

This easy to moderate 3-mile, figure 8 loop trail overlooking downtown Raton is named after the now abandoned Climax Mine. Schools use the trail as a field trip location to teach students about ecology, biology, geology, and natural science. With its historic significance and fantastic views of mountains, mesas, and New Mexico's high plains, the trail is one of Raton's outdoor recreation treasures.

NEW MEXICO AND TEXAS

Guadalupe Ridge Trail

Starting in Guadalupe Mountains National Park, 100 miles of trail traverses the rocky peaks of the highest point in Texas (Guadalupe Peak), Chihuahuan Desert terrain, mixed coniferous forests, riparian woodlands, and rocky canyons. The trail continues through the landscapes of the Lincoln National Forest. An optional loop includes Last Chance Canyon and the desert oasis of Sitting Bull Falls. The trail then crosses Carlsbad Caverns National Park and Bureau of Land Management property, with stunning views of the rugged Guadalupe Ridge. The trail ends in White's City, New Mexico. The trail in places can include use by equestrian and stock, motorized vehicles, and bikes.

NEW YORK

Martin Van Buren Nature Trails

This 3.7-mile system of trails is on 70 acres of land across from the Martin Van Buren National Historic Site. The trails are ideal for hiking, walking, families, dog walkers, environmental education, and youth activities. Features include meadow, stream, marsh, forest, farm, rolling hills, and historic right of way.

PENNSYLVANIA

Jim Mayer Riverswalk Trail

Named for a local conservationist, the Jim Mayer Riverswalk Trail is a 3.1-mile urban rail-trail on the east end of the City of Johnstown. The trail offers views of the Stonycreek River, abundant bird-life and wildflowers, picturesque Buttermilk Falls, and serenity within an urban setting. As part of the local vision to make recreational trail use more accessible in the Greater Johnstown area, the trail provides opportunities for wellness, enhanced recreational experiences, and connections to other trail systems.

SOUTH DAKOTA

Blackberry Trail

The Blackberry Trail is located entirely within Mount Rushmore National Memorial. This one-mile gravel trail connects with the Centennial Trail in the Black Elk Wilderness, a part of the Black Hills National Forest. Mainly used by equestrians as a spur trail to access Mount Rushmore, visitors have the opportunity to ride or hike in solitude, enjoying the trees, birds, and geology.

TENNESSEE

Bays Mountain Park Trail System

Rising above the City of Kingsport, Bays Mountain Park and Planetarium features roughly 40 miles of trails suitable for all levels of hiking and mountain biking expertise. From scenic, fun, single-track trails to old service roads leading to the ridgetop fire tower, 31 named trails provide a great escape to the natural world.

TEXAS

Salado Creek Greenway

The Salado Creek Greenway is a 15-mile scenic multi-use trail along Salado Creek within the northern part of the City of San Antonio. It has brought together people from all walks of life to share in health, recreation, wellness, and community. The trail connects the natural environment with the people who live near it and enhances the quality of recreation for the surrounding neighborhoods.

UTAH

Corona Arch

This trail on Bureau of Land Management land leads to Corona Arch's impressive 140 by 105-foot opening and the adjacent Bow Tie Arch. Approximately 14 driving miles from Moab, the 1.5-mile out-and-back trail provides visitors with striking views of the Colorado River and a large slickrock canyon.

VERMONT

Wright's Mountain Trails

This 7.2-mile network of paths and old logging roads provides recreational access to the forest land and wildlife habitat of Wright's Mountain, Bradford's highest peak. At the summit visitors enjoy a wonderful view in all seasons of the Waits River Valley. The pedestrian trails were constructed and are maintained by volunteers.

VIRGINIA

Dahlgren Railroad Heritage Trail

The Dahlgren Railroad Heritage Trail is a 15.7-mile converted rails-to-trail located in King George County. The beautiful corridor with its continuous gravel and stone dust surface serves walkers, runners, and bikers. The trail is an official part of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail.

Each of the newly designated trails will receive a certificate of designation, a set of trail markers, and a letter of congratulations recognition from Secretary Zinke.

“Bringing these trails into the National Recreation Trails system will increase Montanans’ access to their public lands,” **said Congressman Greg Gianforte**. “I appreciate Secretary Zinke’s recognition of River’s Edge Trail, which connects Great Falls with some of the best mountain biking and hiking through nearly 60 miles of trails. The collaborative effort among the city of Great Falls, Cascade County, state agencies, Northwestern Energy, and others made this important designation possible.”

“The Blackberry Trail is an example of what a dedicated community can do to expand access to the Black Hills’ incredible landscapes,” **said Congresswoman Kristi Noem**. “Especially after the recent rehabilitation efforts, I am thrilled Secretary Zinke and the Trump administration have designated it as a National Recreation Trail.”

“The designation of the Guadalupe Ridge Trail as a National Recreation Trail will provide hikers and recreationalists the opportunity to see some of the most picturesque landscapes in New Mexico,” **said Congressman Steve Pearce**. “The trail itself will run 100 miles from Guadalupe Peak through the Lincoln National Forest and ends at Carlsbad Caverns National Park. Increasing access to our public lands is absolutely essential and something that I will continue to push for. I am happy to have helped work with local communities to make this come to fruition and applaud all those involved for their hard work.”

“An avid outdoorsman, I often take advantage of the parks and trails in East Tennessee,” **said Congressman Phil Roe**. “In addition to being a great place for East Tennesseans to spend time outdoors, our beautiful lands also help the local economy. I know these new trails will benefit Kingsport, and I thank Secretary Zinke for expanding recreational opportunities in the First District.”

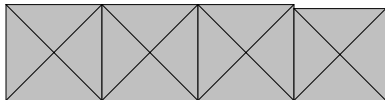
“The great state of Minnesota is home to an incredibly vast landscape of nature—countless lakes, trails, rivers and native trees and forests define the Land of 10,000 Lakes,” **said Congressman Tom Emmer**. “Thanks to Secretary Zinke, whose designation of the beautiful Cannon Valley Trail as a national recreation trail is great news for all Minnesotans who appreciate this attraction year-round, sunshine or snow for everything from hiking to cross-country skiing.”

“Millions of Americans utilize our National Trails System to enjoy the great outdoors and understand our nation's heritage,” **said Mary Ellen Sprengel, President & CEO, The Corps Network**. “Whether it's hiking, biking, camping, hunting, or fishing - trails also provide access to our nation's most treasured landscapes and recreation opportunities. The nation's 130 Conservation Corps and 24,000 Corpsmembers are proud to help construct and maintain our

National Trails System and we applaud Secretary Zinke's commitment to expanding trails and access to recreation opportunities in honor of the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System Act.”

“Congratulations on the 50th anniversary of the National Trails Act,” **said Lewis Ledford, executive director of the National Association of State Park Directors.** “Trails are exceedingly important to tourism and recreation in America’s State Parks, and we continue to grow the trail systems in response to the many types of users. Outdoor recreation opportunities include not only hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding, but also a place for snowmobilers and OHRVs. Waterway trails are also an integral part of the outdoor recreation experience. Whether it is biking the most difficult terrain or taking a leisurely hike along a natural path, the trails provide healthy activities everyone can participate in and enjoy. The National Trails Act led the way for the majority of the states to enact support for trails such as Tennessee, among one of the first in April of 1971 to enact their State Scenic Trails Act. National and state designations highlight the unique significance trails offer in this most popular of outdoor recreation activities.”

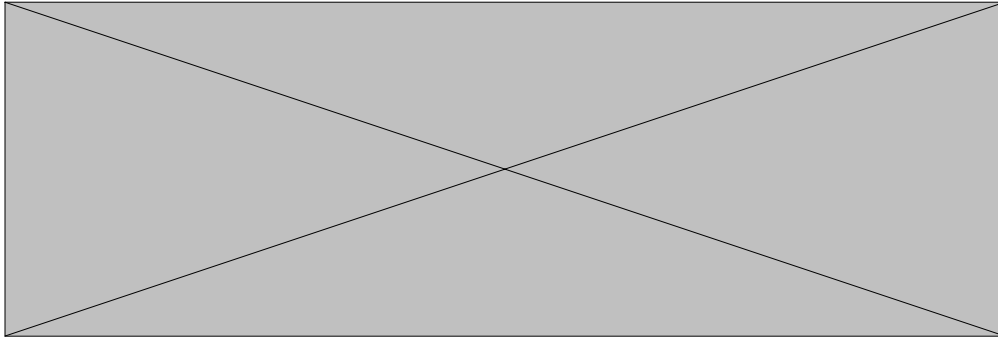
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From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-06-01T15:41:02-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: New Junior Ranger Activity Book Encourages Kids to Go Fish
Received: 2018-06-01T15:42:01-04:00

Helping inspire the new generation of anglers in our public lands and parks! Share the wonderful news with your members and your families and pick up your free activity book at a public park near you...



Date: June 1, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

New Junior Ranger Activity Book Encourages Kids to Go Fish

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Department of the Interior along with the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will publish a [new free booklet to help kids get hooked on fishing](#). Starting June 2, aspiring anglers can download the Junior Ranger “Let’s Go Fishing!” activity booklet, which will introduce them and their families to fishing and encourage healthy and responsible outdoor recreation.

“The Junior Ranger fishing booklet is a great tool to inspire future anglers to get out on the waters and enjoy the American pastime of fishing,” **said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke**. “Fishing in the rivers and lakes of Montana as a kid instilled in me a lifelong love of the sport.”

In the coming weeks, kids can pick up a print version of the booklet, funded in part by the National Park Foundation, at more than 500 [national parks](#), [national wildlife refuges](#), and national fish hatcheries that offer fishing. Upon completion of the booklet, kids will be sworn in as Junior Ranger Anglers and receive a National Park Service or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service junior ranger badge.

“This booklet offers great opportunities to get kids and families outdoors, where they can make memories and enjoy the benefits of outdoor recreation together,” **said National Park Service Deputy Director Dan Smith**. “The activities encourage safe and enjoyable fishing experiences and promote the conservation of native fish and their habitats.”

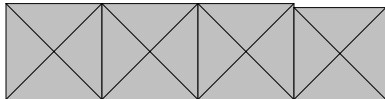
“Teaching a child to fish gives him or her an outdoor skill that can bring a lifetime of pleasure,” **said Cynthia Martinez, chief of the National Wildlife Refuge System, part of the Fish and Wildlife Service.** “There are hundreds of national wildlife refuges and other public lands across the country — in both urban and rural communities — which are great places to fish, and this booklet will tell you all you need to enjoy them.”

“Discover the fun of sharing a fishing adventure with your friends and family,” **said National Park Foundation President Will Shafroth.** “Thanks to the support of generous National Park Foundation donors, this new book inspires people of all ages to get out and fish.”

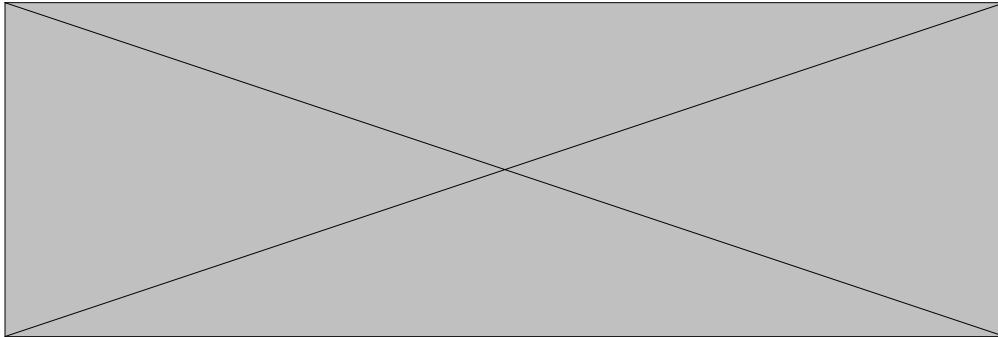
For more information about the Junior Ranger “Let’s Go Fishing!” program or to download a copy of the booklet, visit www.nps.gov/subjects/fishing/. Visit fws.gov/refuges/kids/jrrangers for a list of the national wildlife refuges and national fish hatcheries participating in the program.

The Junior Ranger Angler program is one of more than 300 Junior Ranger programs in the Department of the Interior. Each is an intergenerational learning program that focuses on a site or theme tied to public lands. These activity books encourage young explorers to protect public lands, learn about the outdoors, and share their experiences with friends and family.

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-06-04T16:51:36-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Announces \$1.1 Million Reclamation Contract to Navajo Nation Tribal Government for Assisting San Juan River Basin Recovery
Received: 2018-06-04T16:52:37-04:00



Date: June 4, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Announces \$1.1 Million Reclamation Contract to Navajo Nation Tribal Government for Assisting San Juan River Basin Recovery

Contract Will Boost Multi-Agency Effort to Restore Fish

WASHINGTON – Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke announced today that the Bureau of Reclamation is awarding a \$1.1 million contract that will allow the Navajo Nation Tribal Government to assist with the recovery of endangered fish as partners in the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program. Reclamation operates Navajo Dam and Reservoir located on the San Juan River in Colorado and New Mexico.

The recovery program facilitates the recovery of two endangered fish that live in the river—the Colorado pikeminnow and razorback sucker, while allowing the continued development of water and power resources throughout the Colorado River Basin.

“Across Indian Country, working as a true partner with tribal nations is the best way to restore trust in government,” **said Secretary Zinke**. “Respect for tribal sovereignty goes hand-in-hand with this cooperation. I look forward to working with the Navajo Nation, on a government-to-government basis, on this key project in the San Juan River Basin as we establish a great conservation legacy under President Trump. In addition, we know that striking a balance between habitat management, resource development, and the needs of the tribal nation will require full cooperation at every level.”

Through the contract, the Navajo Nation will provide assistance to fish recovery efforts including operating fish passage facilities and raising the endangered fish in ponds located on the

Navajo Nation. After the fish have grown to a larger size of about 12 inches in the pond, they are eventually stocked into the San Juan River where they will spawn and produce young that help increase the fish population. This contract will enable the Navajo Nation to provide experienced biologists and equipment that help facilitate the continued management of the Colorado pikeminnow and razorback sucker.

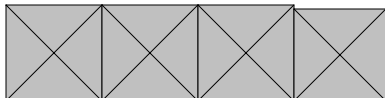
Under this program, it is anticipated these actions also will provide benefits to other native fishes in the basin and prevent them from becoming endangered in the future.

"Reclamation is a proud supporter and partner in the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program," **Reclamation Commissioner Brenda Burman said.** "This program is a collaborative effort that provides protection and recovery of endangered fish in the San Juan River Basin while meeting the water delivery needs for communities within the basin."

In addition to Reclamation, other bureaus of the Department of the Interior participating in the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Land Management. Other partners include the Navajo Nation, the Jicarilla Apache Nation, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, the Ute Mountain Ute Indian Tribe, the States of Colorado and New Mexico, and water development interests in those two states.

For more information on the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program, visit <https://www.fws.gov/southwest/sjrip/>.

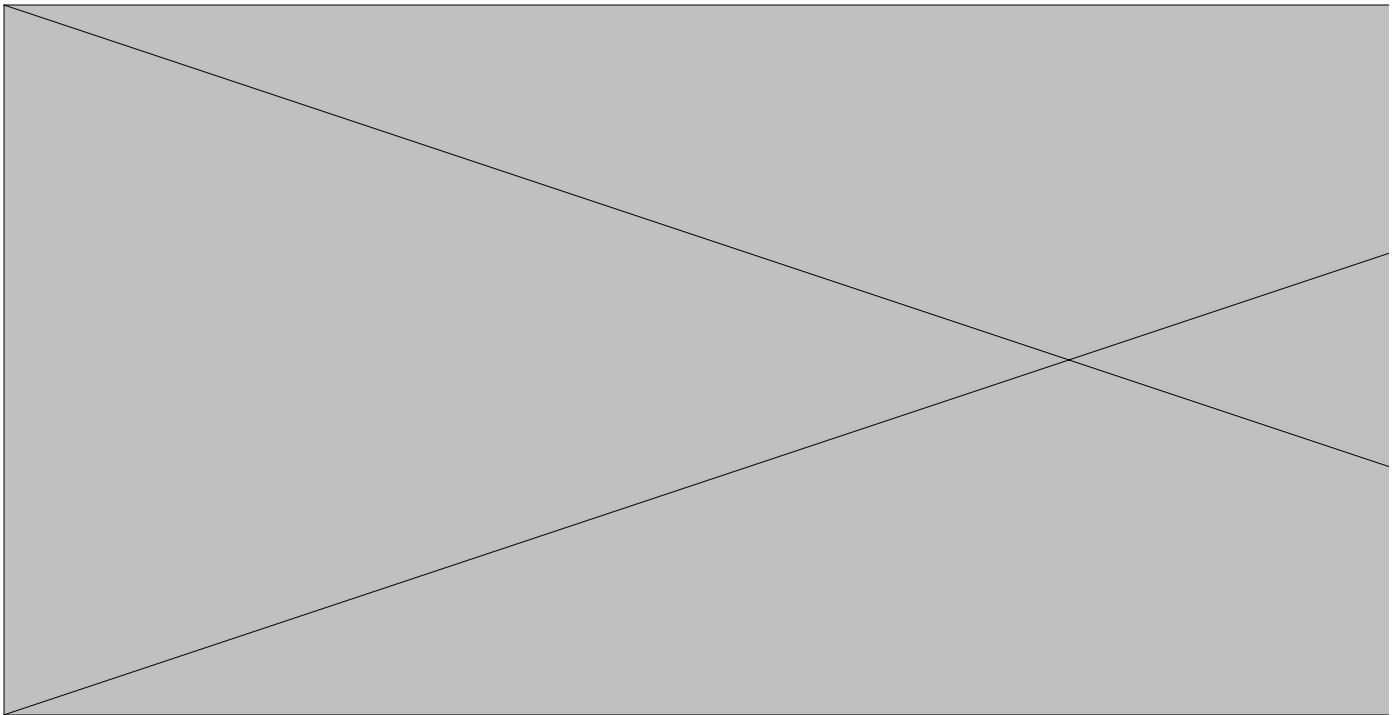
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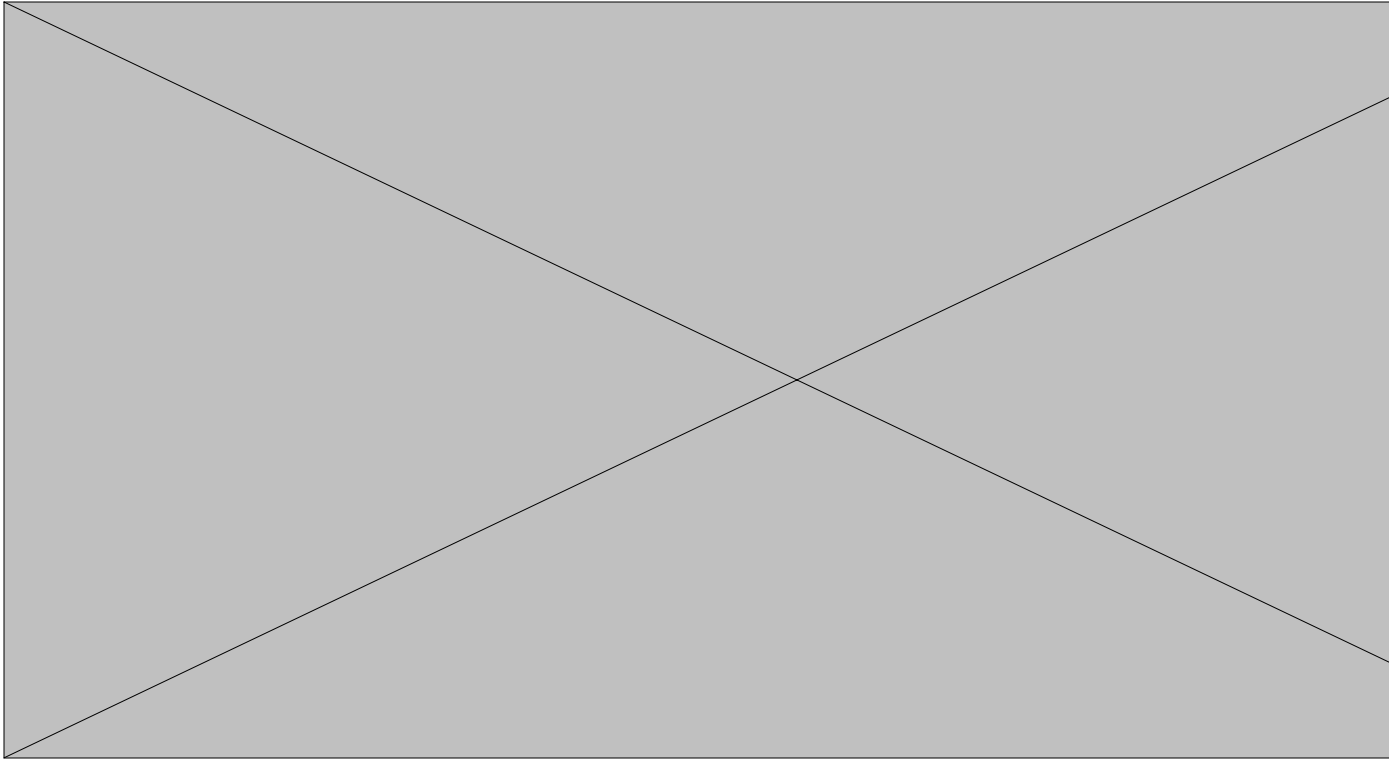


From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-06-04T18:39:25-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: INTERIOR CELEBRATES 500 DAYS OF AMERICAN GREATNESS UNDER POTUS TRUMP
Received: 2018-06-04T18:41:26-04:00
[Official DOI Slides For Sharing.zip](#)
[500 Days.pdf](#)

500 days of the Trump Administration, and we're not tired of winning yet...

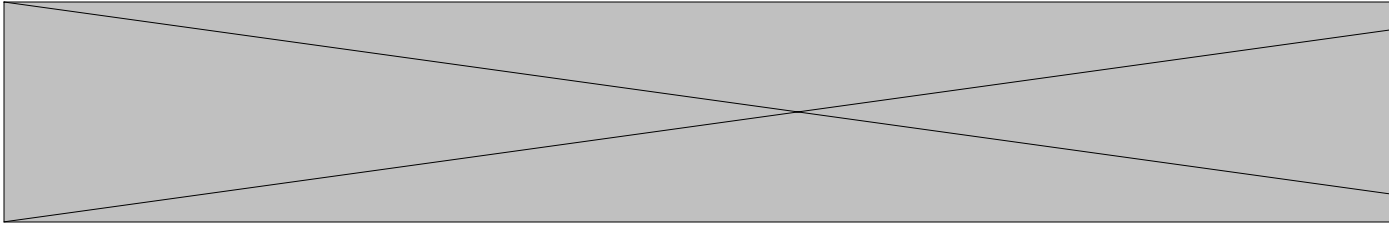
Please review the official DOI slides (PDF or JPG) to share on your websites, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, or any other social media platforms..



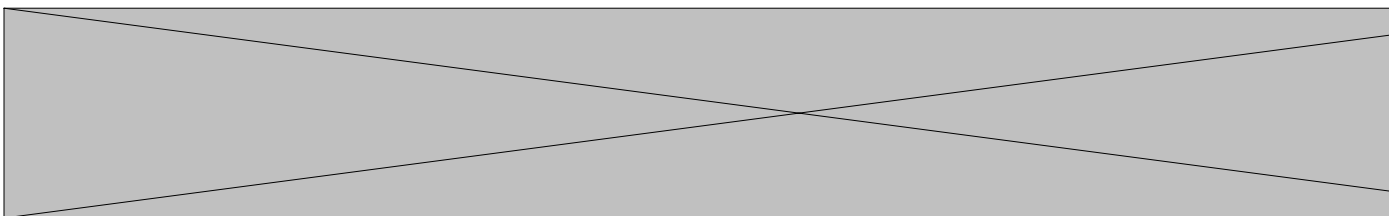
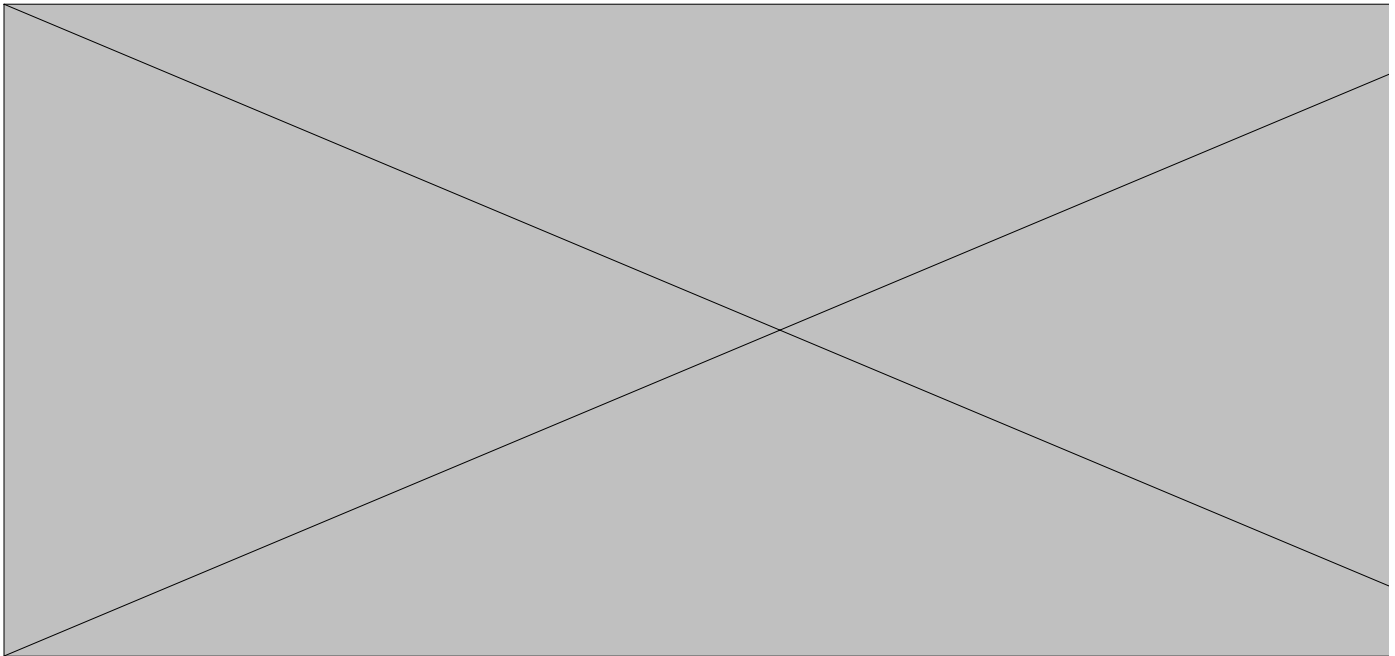


"President Donald J. Trump and the entire administration are delivering on promises that the President has made to the American people. In the first 500 days of President Trump's Administration, the Department of the Interior has relit the pilot light of American energy production, increasing energy revenues by more than a billion dollars in our first year and approving key energy infrastructure projects. We are making American communities safer by taking opioids and other dangerous drugs off the streets, and we are increasing law enforcement on public lands along our southern border. We are opening up more public lands for hunting, fishing, and recreational opportunities, while we are also working with Congress on a bipartisan bill to rebuild our National Parks' crumbling roads, bridges, and other infrastructure. And we're just getting started."

— Secretary Ryan Zinke

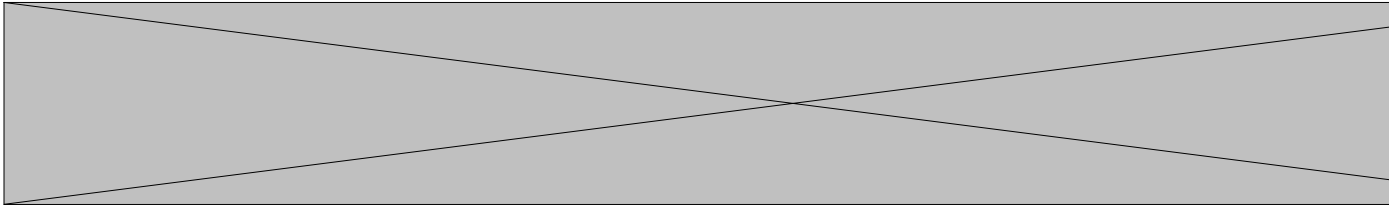


- Carried out the President's Executive Order on "critical minerals," listing minerals key to economic and national security
- Deployed law enforcement officers to the U.S.-Mexico border, conducting drug raids and arresting illegal aliens
- Formed a law enforcement task force on opioids in Indian Country, executing massive drug seizures

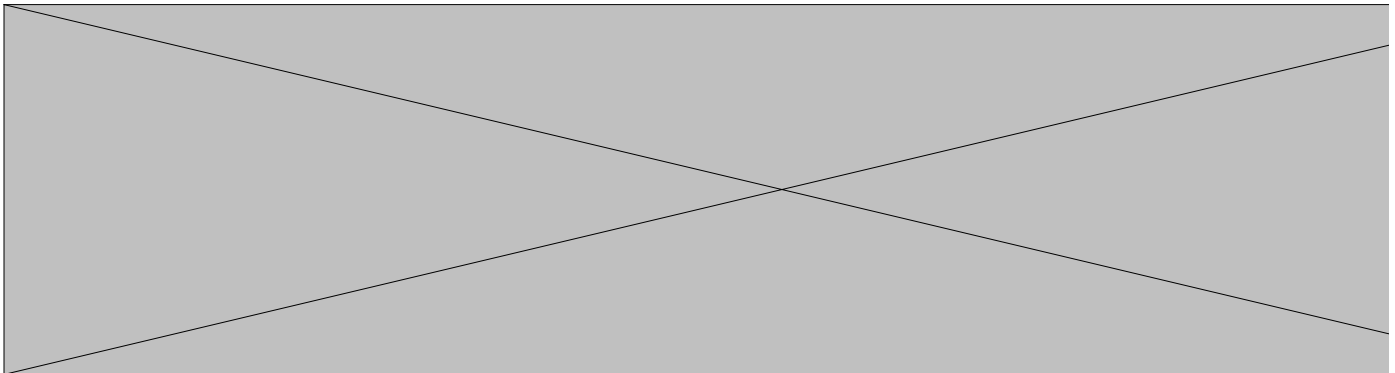
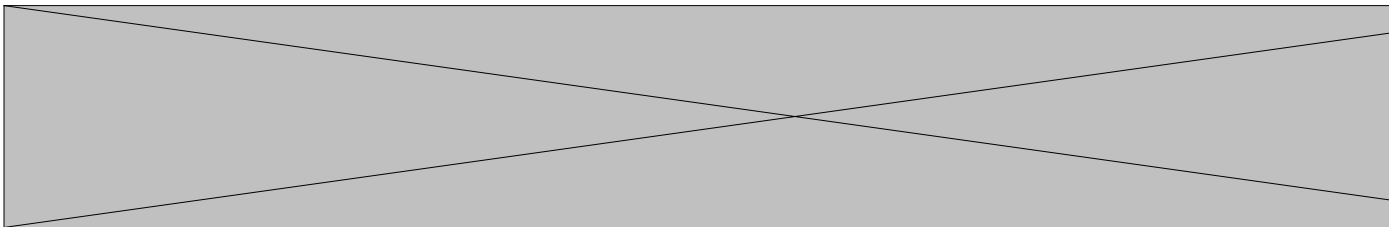


- Dozens of burdensome regulations repealed or modified
- DOI's semi-annual regulatory agenda cut by over 50%
- Expedited timelines ordered for permitting under the National Environmental Policy Act

- Reasonable deadlines and page limits established for Environmental Impact Studies



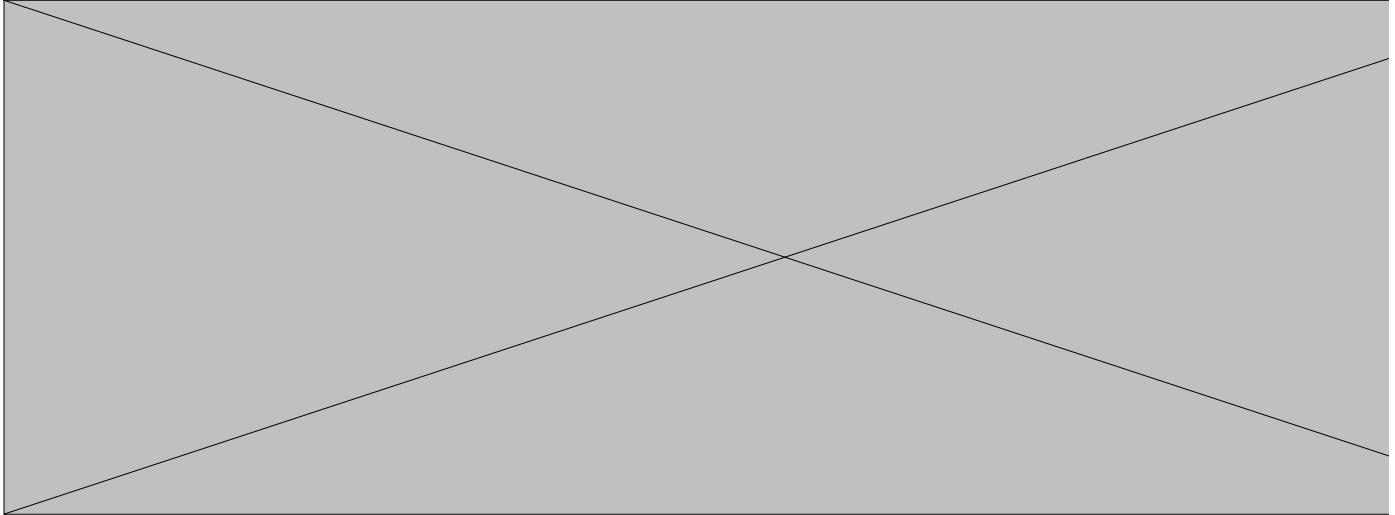
- Approved the final two segments of the Gateway West power line in southwestern Idaho that was stalled for over a decade, leading to the creation of American jobs and helping to power the American West for years to come
- "One Federal Decision" framework established for infrastructure permitting
- Bipartisan bill introduced to clear the \$11.6 billion maintenance backlog in our national parks
- Memorial Bridge project announced to be under budget and ahead of schedule



- President Trump restored traditional multiple-use public access to 2 million acres of land in Utah
- Created 5 distinct monument units at Grand Staircase-Escalante and Bears Ears

National Monuments

- The Department also opened up the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge for emergency cattle grazing after a wildfire, and reopened U.S. Virgin Islands National Park ahead of the busy Christmas tourism season, helping the Islands' economic recovery



"I'm thrilled and grateful to President Trump and Secretary Zinke for giving Utahns a voice in the protection of Utah lands."

—Utah Senator Orrin Hatch

- Approved a lifesaving road for the residents of King Cove, Alaska.

"And the scribble at the top says, 'Lisa, we will get it done. Best, Donald Trump.' So, Mr. President, thank you for helping us get it done."

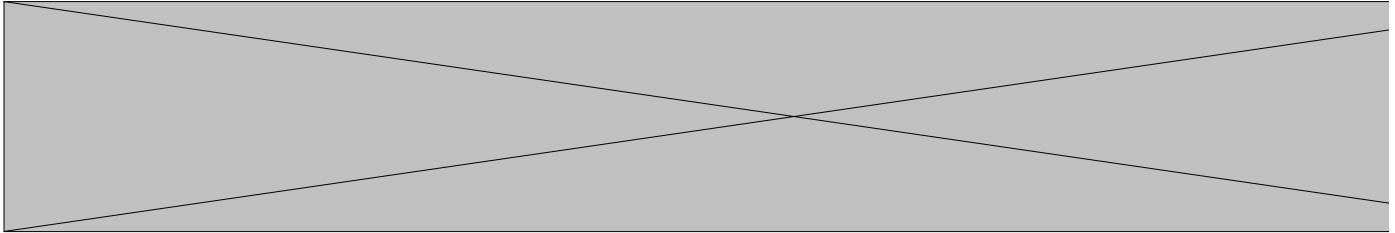
—Alaska Senator Lisa Murkowski

- Opened or expanded hunting and fishing access proposed at 40 national wildlife refuges.

- 19 new national recreation trails in 17 states

“We’re going to conserve our beautiful natural habitats.”

—Presidential Candidate Donald J. Trump



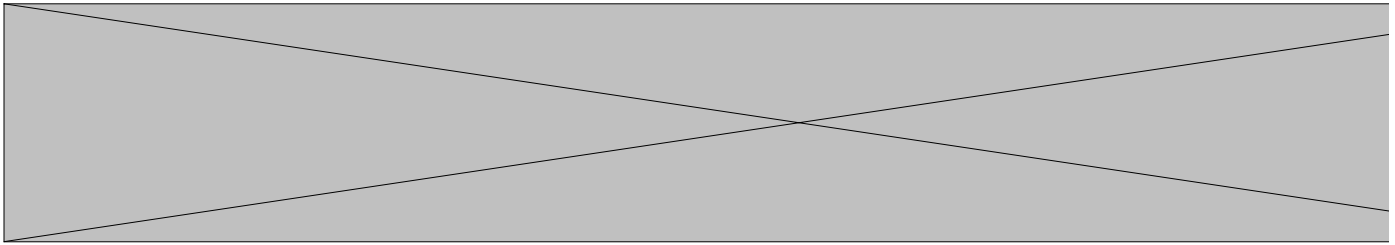
“American energy dominance will be declared a strategic economic and foreign policy goal of the United States. It’s about time.”

— Presidential Candidate Donald J. Trump

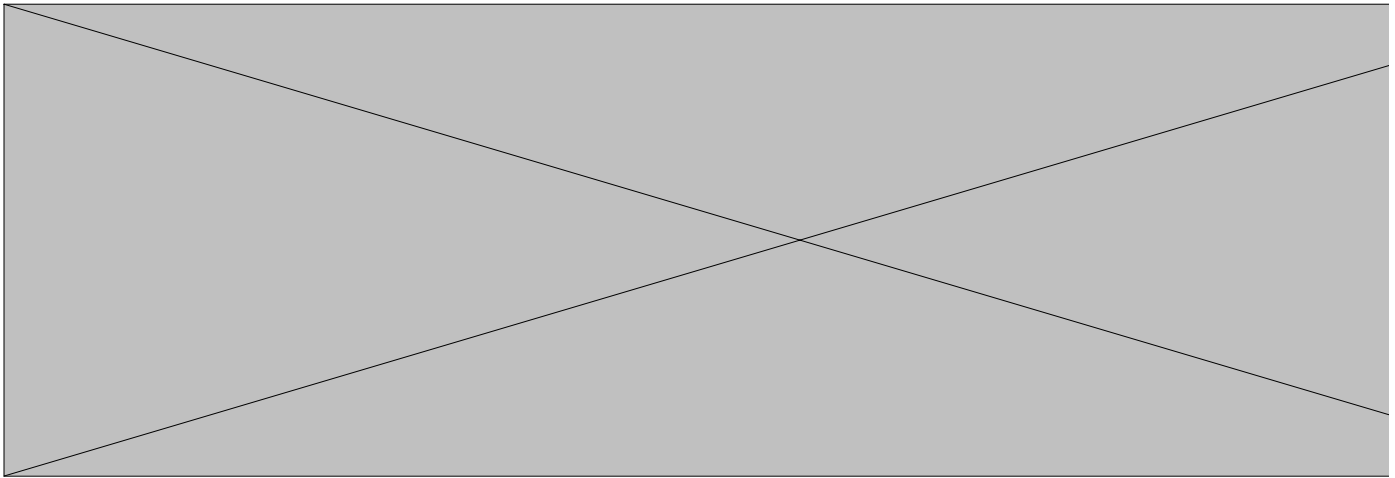
- A new all-time record for American oil production projected at 10.7 million barrels per day in 2018
- Net exporter of natural gas for the first time in 60 years
- 1002 area of Alaska's North Slope opened for energy development
- Obama-era coal moratorium reversed

“We’ll get the bureaucracy out of the way of innovation, so that we can pursue all forms of energy. This includes renewable energies and the technologies of the future. It does include nuclear, and wind, and solar, but not to the exclusion of other forms of energy.”

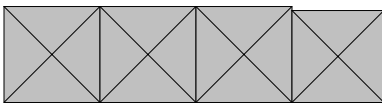
— Presidential Candidate Donald J. Trump



- First-ever Presidential Emergency Declaration for a tribal nation: the Seminole Tribe of Florida after Hurricane Irma
- Pechanga Water Rights Settlement formally executed



###



**500 DAYS OF
AMERICAN
GREATNESS**



500 Days of American Greatness at the Department of the Interior under President Donald J. Trump

500 DAYS OF
 AMERICAN
GREATNESS



“Public lands will once again be for public use.”

President Donald J. Trump in Salt Lake City, Utah
December 4, 2017

*Lifted the restrictive
“National Monument”
designation from over*

2 million

*acres of
public land
in Utah*

500 DAYS OF
 AMERICAN
GREATNESS

Secured

\$123 million

*to fund the Palau
Compact for
national security
in the Pacific*

500 DAYS OF
 AMERICAN
GREATNESS

*Proposed opening
or expanding*

hunting and fishing access

*at 39 national
wildlife refuges*

500 DAYS OF
 AMERICAN
GREATNESS

19 *new recreational
trails in 17 states*

500 DAYS OF
 AMERICAN
GREATNESS

PROJECTED ALL-TIME RECORD

**10.7
million**

*barrels of American
oil produced per day
in 2018*

500 DAYS OF
 AMERICAN
GREATNESS

*Net exporter of
natural gas for
the first time in*

60 years

500 DAYS OF
 AMERICAN
GREATNESS

REGULATORY RELIEF FOR HARDWORKING AMERICANS

*Department of the Interior's semi-
annual regulatory agenda cut by over*

50%

500 DAYS OF
 AMERICAN
GREATNESS

87%

*increase from 2016 to 2017 in
bonus bids, rentals and fees
generated from onshore oil and
gas lease sales on federal lands*

**500 DAYS OF
 AMERICAN
GREATNESS**

AFTER HURRICANE IRMA

*For the Seminole Tribe of Florida,
President Trump signed the*

*first-ever Presidential
Emergency Declaration for
a Native American Tribe*

500 DAYS OF
 AMERICAN
GREATNESS

MAY 2018: OPIOID BUST IN ARIZONA

- **9,050** *Fentanyl pills seized*
- **913.5 pounds** *of illegal narcotics*
- **\$4.79 million** *total street value of the drugs*
- **86** *total arrests*

500 DAYS OF
 AMERICAN
GREATNESS

Public Lands are Once Again for Public Use under President Trump

- Restrictive “National Monument” designation lifted from over 2 million acres of public land in Utah
- Opened or expanded hunting and fishing access proposed at 39 national wildlife refuges
- 19 new national recreation trails in 17 states

**500 DAYS OF
 AMERICAN
GREATNESS**

President Trump is Delivering Regulatory Relief to Hardworking Americans

- **Dozens of burdensome regulations repealed or modified**
- **Interior Department's semi-annual regulatory agenda cut by over 50-percent**
- **Expedited timelines ordered for permitting under the National Environmental Policy Act**
- **Reasonable deadlines and page limits established for Environmental Impact Studies**

**500 DAYS OF
 AMERICAN
GREATNESS**

The Forgotten Men and Women of America Are Forgotten No More

- Distributed approximately \$18 million of “Anvil Points” funding to Colorado after nearly a decade of the funds being withheld by the federal government
- Released part of a \$52 million payment owed to North Carolina’s Swain County since 1943, with the balance coming this year
- Approved a lifesaving road for the residents of King Cove, Alaska

**500 DAYS OF
 AMERICAN
GREATNESS**

President Trump is Achieving American Energy Dominance

- A new all-time record for American oil production: 10.7 million barrels per day
- Net exporter of natural gas for the first time in 60 years
- Obama-era coal moratorium reversed
- 1002 area of Alaska's North Slope opened for energy development

**500 DAYS OF
 AMERICAN
GREATNESS**

With President Trump in the White House, Tribal Sovereignty Has Meaning

- **First-ever Presidential Emergency Declaration for a tribal nation: the Seminole Tribe of Florida after Hurricane Irma**
- **Pechanga Water Rights Settlement formally executed**
- **First-ever Alaska Native female nominated for a Senate-confirmed position: Tara Sweeney for Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs**

**500 DAYS OF
 AMERICAN
GREATNESS**

The Interior Department under President Trump: Keeping America Safe

- Carried out the President's Executive Order on "critical minerals," listing minerals key to economic and national security
- Deployed law enforcement officers to the U.S.-Mexico border, conducting drug raids and arresting illegal aliens
- Formed an law enforcement task force on opioids in Indian Country, executing massive drug seizures

**500 DAYS OF
 AMERICAN
GREATNESS**

American Infrastructure for American Greatness

- “One Federal Decision” framework established for infrastructure permitting
- Bipartisan bill introduced to clear the \$11.6 billion maintenance backlog in our national parks
- Memorial Bridge project announced to be under budget and ahead of schedule

**500 DAYS OF
 AMERICAN
GREATNESS**

500 DAYS OF
 AMERICAN
GREATNESS



“And the scribble at the top says, ‘Lisa, we will get it done. Best, Donald Trump.’ So, Mr. President, thank you for helping us get it done.”

**Alaska Senator Lisa Murkowski
in response to the President’s King Cove land trade**

500 DAYS OF
 AMERICAN
GREATNESS



“I’m thrilled and grateful to President Trump and Secretary Zinke for giving Utahns a voice in the protection of Utah lands.”

**Utah Senator Orrin Hatch
Senate President Pro Tempore**

**500 DAYS OF
AMERICAN
GREATNESS**



**“President Trump and Secretary Zinke continue to
make major positive structural changes to
America’s land and wildlife conservation systems.”**

**Don Peay
Founder of Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife**

**500 DAYS OF
AMERICAN
GREATNESS**



“I would like to thank President Donald Trump for his commitment to deploy all necessary resources to assist the Seminole Tribe of Florida during this difficult time.”

**Seminole Chairman Marcellus Osceola
in response to the President’s Emergency Declaration for the Tribe
after Hurricane Irma**

500 DAYS OF
 AMERICAN
GREATNESS



“Under the Trump Administration, decisions regarding national public lands are transparent and being made with the input of America’s sportsmen and women.”

Chris Cox
Executive Director, NRA-ILA

**500 DAYS OF
AMERICAN
GREATNESS**



“We are pleased to see President Trump’s focus on infrastructure improvements and investments in this country.”

**David Holt
President, Consumer Energy Alliance**

**500 DAYS OF
AMERICAN
GREATNESS**

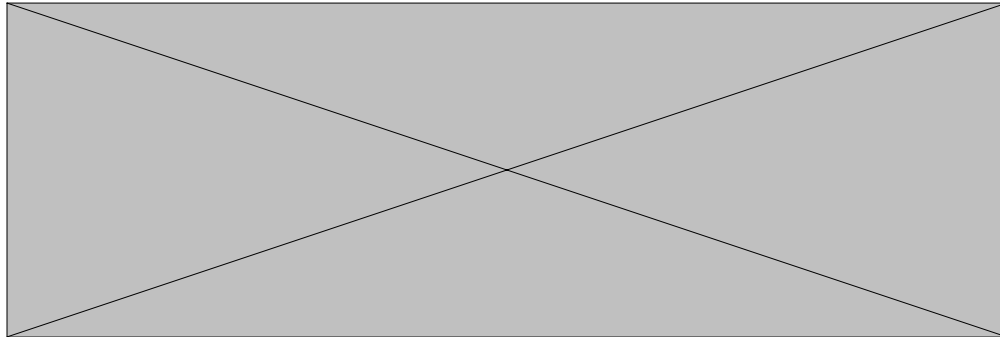


**“President Trump and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke
should be applauded for working to correct past
executive overreach by Presidents Obama and Clinton.”**

**Grover Norquist
President, Americans for Tax Reform**

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-06-06T12:34:23-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Trump Administration Announces \$256 Million in Construction Projects Approved for National Parks
Received: 2018-06-06T12:35:03-04:00

Helping restore "America's best idea" to greatness...



Date: June 6, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Trump Administration Announces \$256 Million in Construction Projects Approved for National Parks

Approved projects will repair and rehabilitate aging National Park Service infrastructure

WASHINGTON— U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke today announced more than \$256 million in approved funding to rebuild critical national park infrastructure. The list includes projects like the repair of the Arlington Memorial Bridge in D.C., the visitor access upgrade at Herring Cove Beach at the Cape Cod National Seashore, and the rehabilitation of the Elkmont Waste Water System at Great Smoky Mountains National Park—dire maintenance and repair needs that contribute to the \$11.6 billion backlog currently facing the nation's national parks.

Roads, bridges, trails, water systems and visitor centers—even bathrooms, campgrounds and drinking fountains—are all part of this critical, but often unnoticed, infrastructure framework. In 2017, 330 million people visited the 417 NPS sites across the country. The NPS completed over \$650 million in maintenance and repair work in Fiscal Year 2017, but aging facilities, high visitation, and resource constraints have kept the maintenance backlog between \$11 billion and \$12 billion since 2010.

"The President is a builder, he loves to build and he loves our National Parks, so it is a natural fit that the Administration is dedicating so much attention to rebuilding our aging parks infrastructure. These approved projects are more than just line items on an Excel spreadsheet.

They have a tangible effect on a person's experience when visiting our nation's parks," **said Secretary Zinke**. "Today's announcement is another step toward eliminating the more than \$11 billion in maintenance facing the National Park Service. It's another step toward prioritizing infrastructure because it is an investment that bolsters local economies and gateway communities. And it is another step in prioritizing access for all Americans to our public lands."

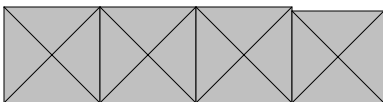
Secretary Zinke has made tackling Interior's deferred maintenance backlog one of his top priorities. In April, he signed an [memorandum of understanding](#) committing Interior to follow President Trump's One Federal Decision framework for processing of environmental reviews and permits for major infrastructure projects. In March, Interior announced the Secretary's partnership with Congress on a [bipartisan bill](#) to address rebuild and repair National Park Service infrastructure.

Approved Fiscal Year 2018 National Park Service construction projects:

Unit	Project Title	State	Total
George Washington Memorial Parkway	Repair Arlington Memorial Bridge.	DC	\$18,200,000
National Mall and Memorial Parks	Restore Jefferson Roof and Portico.	DC	\$21,371,000
Lowell National Historical Park	Replace Unsafe and Inefficient Windows of Boott Mill Museum.	MA	\$4,177,000
Cape Cod National Seashore	Upgrade Visitor Access at Herring Cove Beach.	MA	\$5,442,000
Yellowstone National Park	Rehab and Seismic Retrofit of Mammoth Hotel Guest Room Wings.	WY	\$21,264,000
Fort Point National Historic Site	Repair Leaks in North Barbette Tier and Repoint Brick Masonry at Fort Point.	CA	\$5,996,000
Channel Islands National Park	Replace Anacapa Stiff-Leg Derrick Crane with Two-Crane System.	CA	\$3,922,000
Mount Rushmore National Memorial	Replace Plaza Paver System and Rehabilitate Visitor Center.	SD	\$8,937,000
Vicksburg National Military Park	Stabilize Railroad Redoubt Earthworks.	MS	\$5,909,000

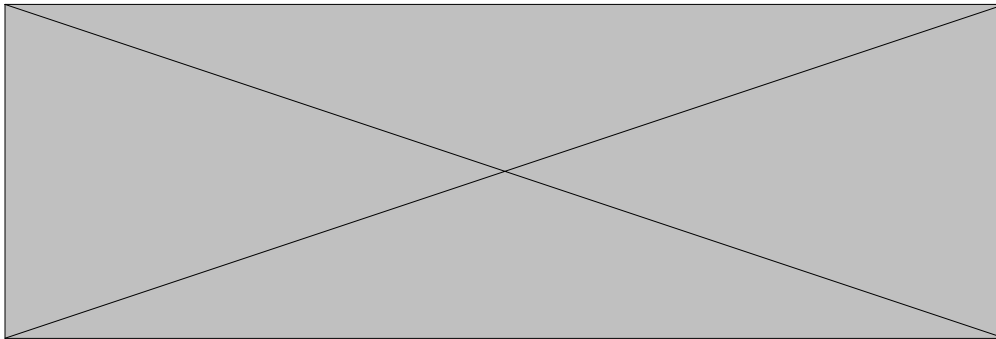
Glacier Bay National Park & Preserve	Construct Electrical Intertie to Falls Creek Hydro Project - Renewable Energy & Sustainability.	AK	\$7,545,000
Great Smoky Mountains National Park	Rehabilitate Elkmont Waste Water System.	TN	\$2,594,000
Valley Forge National Historical Park	Rehabilitate Visitor Center for Access, Safety, and Energy Efficiency.	PA	\$10,030,000
Old Santa Fe Trail Building	Rehab Building for Seismic, Rehab Exterior Envelope and Historic Elements.	NM	\$2,822,000
Lake Mead National Recreation Area	Replace Water Intake Barge with Shoreline Wells at Katherine Landing to Ensure Reliable Water Supply.	AZ	\$1,976,000
Death Valley National Park	Restore Flood-Damaged Historic Scotty's Castle Visitor Center.	CA	\$5,394,000
Carlsbad Caverns National Park	Replace Old/Failing Primary Electrical Distribution Infrastructure.	NM	\$3,432,000
Great Smoky Mountains National Park	North Shore Road Monetary Settlement.	NC	\$35,200,000
Mammoth Cave National Park	Reconstruct Unsafe Cave Trail Along Grand Avenue Tour Between Snowball and Grand Central.	KY	\$13,894,000
Statue Of Liberty National Monument	Stabilize Ellis Island Seawall - Phase III.	NY	\$33,021,000
National Capital Regional Office	Rehabilitate National Mall and Memorial Parks, US Park Police, and Regional Office Campus.	DC	\$11,807,000
Yosemite National Park	Rehabilitate Wawona Wastewater Treatment Plant.	CA	\$21,578,000
Glacier National Park	Rebuild/Reconstruct Sperry Chalet.	MT	\$12,000,000

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-06-13T12:49:27-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Cameron (Cam) Sholly Named Superintendent of Yellowstone National Park
Received: 2018-06-13T12:51:34-04:00

One of America's greatest treasures is under new leadership...



Date: June 12, 2018
Contact: newsmedia@nps.org
Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Cameron (Cam) Sholly Named Superintendent of Yellowstone National Park

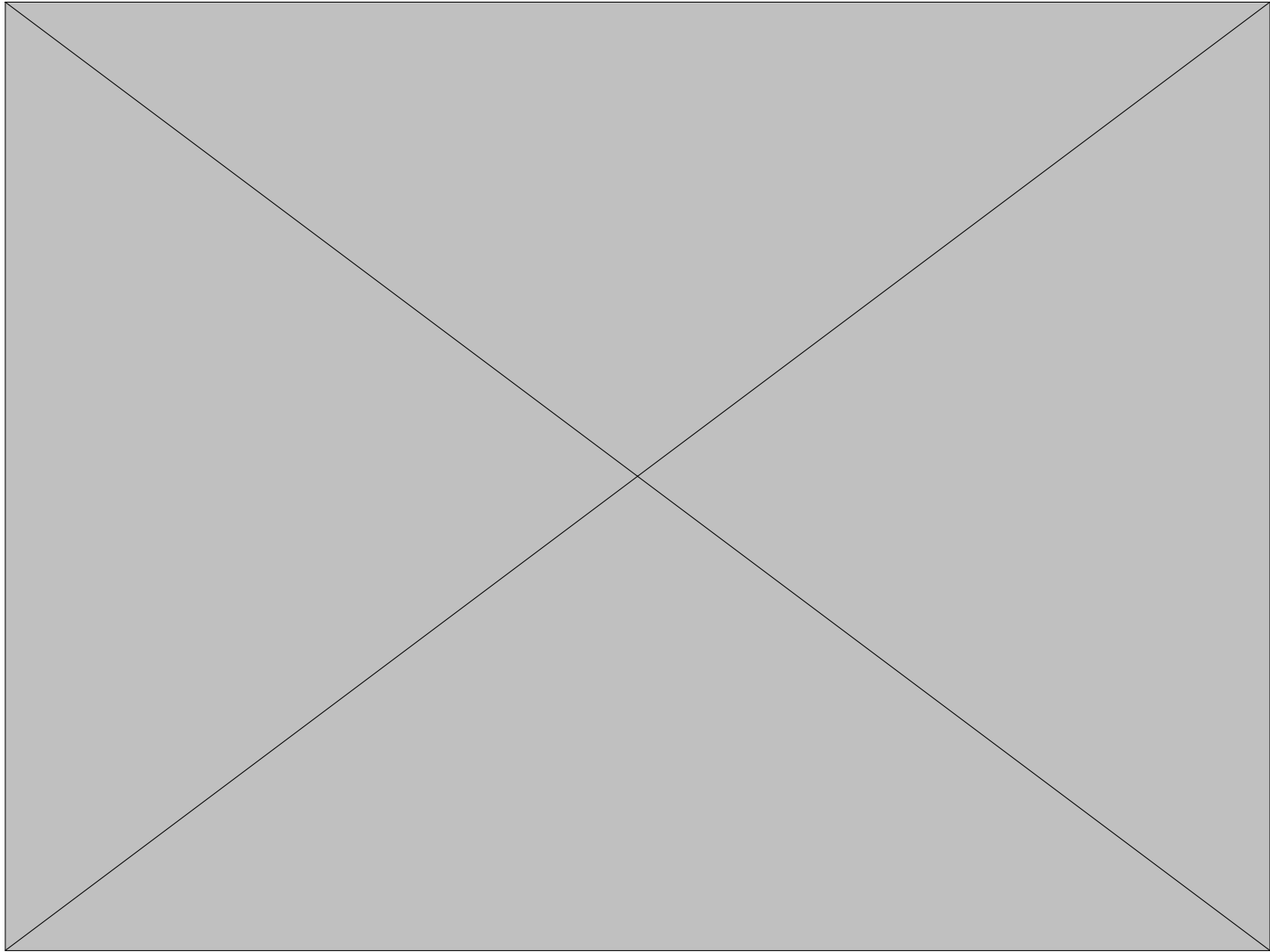
WASHINGTON – Today, National Park Service (NPS) Deputy Director P. Daniel Smith announced the selection of Cameron (Cam) Sholly to be the new Superintendent of Yellowstone National Park.

"As a veteran of the National Park Service, Cam has a track record of working with local communities and Tribes on important wildlife and conservation work and he's overseen some of the park service's most high-profile park infrastructure projects in recent years," **said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke**. "Managing our National Parks is a responsibility and a privilege, and I'm confident Cam Sholly will do a fantastic job at Yellowstone."

"Cam is a proven leader, who has successfully worked at every senior level in the National Park Service including assignments as regional director, associate director, and superintendent," **said Deputy Director Smith**. "Most recently, he has overseen the completion of one of the largest public/private partnership projects in NPS history – the \$380 million renovation of the Gateway Arch grounds and museum in St. Louis. Cam has built productive and valuable relations with communities, landowners, and local, state, and tribal leaders throughout his career, and I am confident he will continue shaping the right vision for Yellowstone's future."

"I am honored to have the opportunity to work with the extraordinary staff and partners at

Yellowstone,” **Sholly said about the appointment.** “Exceptional work has occurred there over the past years because of the dedication of the NPS staff, partners, and communities. I look forward to continuing a positive trajectory for one of the greatest park in the world.”



“Cam has great experience and an understanding of what will make Yellowstone National Park a family destination for all Montanans and its visitors,” **said Senator Steve Daines.** “We discussed many critical issues facing the park service and I look forward to working with Cam. As a Gardner High School graduate I know he will bring Montana common sense to the job every day.”

“Yellowstone National Park is one of America’s most treasured parks. Together with Grand Teton National Park, Yellowstone is home to a wide variety of wildlife and stunning landscapes, and hosts of thousands of visitors each year. As Cam takes the reins as the incoming superintendent, I look forward to working with him to ensure Yellowstone remains a shining example of our national park system,”**said Senator John Barrasso.**

“I’m pleased Secretary Zinke moved quickly to name Cam Sholly as the new Superintendent of

Yellowstone National Park," **said Congressman Liz Cheney**. "Superintendent Sholly's extensive resume and background within the Park Service will serve him well as he transitions into his new role. I'm looking forward to working closely with the Superintendent to keep Yellowstone one of the Nation's most beloved parks."

"Cam has a record of success that will help him manage the first of our nation's national parks," **said Congressman Greg Gianforte**. "Having worked with Cam, I know he understands the importance of being a good partner with neighboring communities. I am confident in Cam's leadership and am certain he will do an outstanding job at Yellowstone."

Since early 2015, Sholly has served as the NPS Midwest Regional Director, and he manages a team of 2000 employees, a budget of over \$250 million, and the operations of 61 national park units spread across 13 states. Over the past three years, national parks within the Midwest transferred nearly 800 bison to state and tribal governments through a transparent and collaborative process. During his tenure in the Midwest Region, Sholly also has overseen several major planning processes, including the recent signing of the record of decision to reintroduce wolves to Isle Royale National Park. The region also supported efforts with states to develop wildlife and land management plans, including a plan to address Chronic Wasting Disease in elk populations in South Dakota. He has improved business processes in the region and collaborated with partners on a variety of complex and important park issues. In 2016, Sholly also established a regional Office of American Indian Affairs, to build stronger tribal relations across the region.

From 2012-2015, Sholly served as the Associate Director for Visitor and Resource Protection at NPS headquarters, where he managed a national portfolio that included wilderness stewardship, fire and aviation management, risk management, public health, ranger law enforcement, regulations, and the United States Park Police. As Associate Director, Sholly guided the development and implementation of a national employee safety strategy which has helped dramatically reduce employee fatalities across the bureau. He also approved new national policies for wilderness stewardship, law enforcement, wildland fire, and many other NPS programs.

From 2009-2012, Sholly served as the Superintendent of the Natchez Trace Parkway, overseeing NPS operations within a 444-mile, three-state corridor that includes 25 counties and 20 communities, with approximately 6 million visitors annually. In 2011, Sholly was named superintendent of the year in the Southeast Region for his sustained partnership and business planning efforts within the corridor.

Sholly's other previous assignments include: Chief of Staff and deputy to the Associate Director for Visitor and Resource Protection; detail as Special Assistant to the NPS Director; and Chief of the Ranger Operations Branch in Yosemite National Park. Sholly is a U.S. Army veteran who served in both infantry and combat military police assignments. He was deployed to Operation Desert Shield/Storm in 1990-1991.

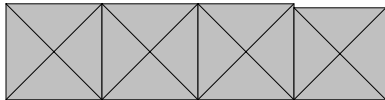
Sholly has a Master's Degree in Environmental Management from Duke University with curriculum concentrations in environmental economics and law and policy. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Management from St. Mary's College of California, and is a graduate of the Harvard University Senior Executive Fellows Program.

In 2015, Sholly was awarded the Department of the Interior's Meritorious Service Award for his executive leadership actions. He has been married for the past 21 years to Jill Walston Sholly. They have a high school-aged son.

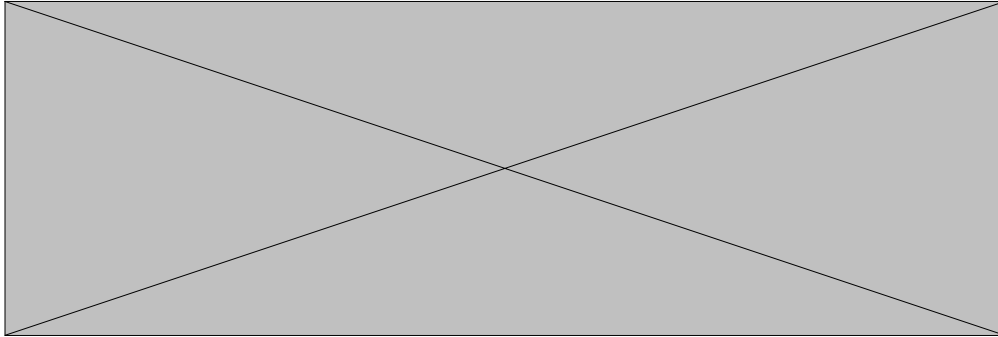
About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 417 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Visit us at www.nps.gov, on Facebook www.facebook.com/nationalparkservice, Twitter www.twitter.com/natlparkservice, and YouTube www.youtube.com/nationalparkservice.

www.nps.gov

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From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-06-13T17:47:56-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke and Blackfeet Nation Chairman Barnes Sign Documents Implementing the Blackfeet Water Rights Settlement and Compact
Received: 2018-06-13T17:48:32-04:00



Date: June 12, 2018

Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke and Blackfeet Nation Chairman Barnes Sign Documents Implementing the Blackfeet Water Rights Settlement and Compact

*Senators Tester and Daines, Rep. Gianforte, Tribal and State officials join signing
cementing Historic partnership*

WASHINGTON— U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke and Blackfeet Nation Chairman Harry Barnes today signed documents implementing the Blackfeet Water Rights Settlement of 2016 and the accompanying Blackfeet Water Compact, which resolve a decades-long battle by the Blackfeet Tribe of Montana to protect its water rights while also accommodating state and federal water requirements. Secretary Zinke has worked on the issue as a State Senator in the Montana State Legislature, as the U.S. Representative from Montana, and now as Secretary of the Interior.

The parties signed the Blackfeet Tribe-Montana-United States Compact as required by the Blackfeet Water Rights Settlement Act. The Secretary and the Chairman also executed certain Waivers and Releases of Claims, an Execution Statement, and a Process Agreement. After the Compact is executed, the parties will file the Compact with the Montana Water Court, beginning the process for issuing a final decree of the Tribe's water rights as part of Montana's state-wide adjudication. Issuance of the final decree is one of several events that must occur for the Settlement to become final and enforceable.

"The Blackfeet are one of Montana's great warrior Nations, and like true warriors, they fought every step of the way for their people to get this settlement over the finish line. I was proud to stand by them as a State Senator, Congressman and now Secretary of the Interior," **said**

Secretary Zinke. “The Blackfeet have given up so much during this long process. Water is more than a drinking source to the Blackfeet, it’s their life source and we must respect and honor their culture and rights. I’m grateful for the work of many tireless officials and public servants over the years from the Tribe, State, Congress, and Federal government who have made this day a reality.”

“This journey for justice and empowerment for the Blackfeet people with respect to one of our most vital resources has taken well over a century and a half,” **said Blackfeet Tribe Chairman Harry Barnes.** “Now, we start on a new path to realizing what our ancestors had always valued: the preservation of our culture, our people, and our opportunities to make real the treaty promise of a homeland for the Blackfeet people and our right to control our destiny.”

“It is my pleasure to extend my congratulations to Chairman Barnes and members of the Blackfeet Tribe on this important milestone for their community,” **said Governor Steve Bullock of Montana.** “Today’s agreement reflects many years of dedication and hard work on behalf of state, federal and tribal partners and our congressional delegation. I’m pleased that together we are able to celebrate and affirm the sovereign rights of the Blackfeet Nation to their water resources.”

“The Blackfeet Tribe has been waiting a long time for this day,” **said Senator Steve Daines.** “Today’s ceremony marks an important step toward the Blackfeet Tribe and surrounding communities having access to reliable water and seeing improvements to water infrastructure projects critical to farmers, ranchers and the local economy.”

“The Blackfeet Water Compact reaffirms water rights, saves taxpayers from costly litigation, and invests in critical water infrastructure in northwest Montana,” **Senator Jon Tester said.** “I was proud to have introduced and fought for this bill in Congress and will continue to hold Congress accountable to the Blackfeet Nation to secure the funding needed to carry out this historic agreement. I want to congratulate Chairman Barnes and the Blackfeet people on the culmination of years of hard work.”

“Today is a great day for Chairman Barnes and the Blackfeet Tribe, who have waited far too long for this agreement,” **said Congressman Greg Gianforte.** “The settlement is the direct result of the hard work and dedication of the Tribe, the Department of Interior, and other key stakeholders. I will continue working with the Tribe and my colleagues to implement the full settlement in a timely manner.”

The Blackfeet Water Rights Settlement is found at Title III, Subsection G of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation, or WIIN, Act. That legislation was signed on December 16, 2016. The Settlement:

- Recognizes the Blackfeet Tribe’s religious and cultural uses of water.
- Resolves all outstanding Blackfeet water claims, quantifies a tribal water right to more than 750,000 acre-feet of surface water and nearly all groundwater on the Reservation, and funds the construction and rehabilitation of water related infrastructure on the Reservation for the benefit of the tribal community.
- Includes an allocation of 45,000 acre-feet of water from Lake Elwell located behind Tiber Dam, a U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) facility.

- Confirms tribal instream flow water rights on ceded lands that now are a part of the Lewis and Clark National Forest and Glacier National Park.
- Grants the Tribe the exclusive right to develop hydropower within the St. Mary Unit of the Milk River Project, a BOR project.
- Funds not only water-related construction projects, but fisheries, recreation, and energy programs as well. Such programs are designed to promote economic development and develop long term employment opportunities for Blackfeet tribal members.
- Resolves age-old disputes among the Tribe and its neighbors, as well as with the state and the federal government, and encourages long-term harmony and cooperation among all parties.

The Blackfeet Tribe's water rights were reserved by treaty with the United States in 1855. Starting in the 1970s, the Tribe more vigorously worked to defend and define its rights in the face of demands by other users to the water resources covered by the treaty agreement.

On April 20, 2017, Blackfeet Tribe members voted in a referendum to accept the Blackfeet Water Compact and Settlement Act, which had been negotiated between the Tribe and the state and approved by the Montana legislature in 2009.

The tribal members' approval of the compact confirmed the Blackfeet Tribe's waters rights and jurisdiction over its water, and provided more than \$470 million - \$422 million from the federal government and \$49 million from the state – for water-related projects.

Congress included initial funding for the Blackfeet Water Rights Settlement Act at the level of \$800,000 in its enacted spending bill for Interior for Fiscal Year 2017.

While serving as a Montana state senator, Secretary Zinke began working to resolve the Tribe's water rights issue. He continued to do so when he was elected to Congress as the state's single House member and then to his current post.

On March 9, 2018, Secretary Zinke signed the first authorization of funds for the Blackfeet Tribe under its expenditure plan. The authorization transfers the \$800,000 to the Blackfeet Settlement Trust Fund set up under the act.

The funds will be used for the following purposes:

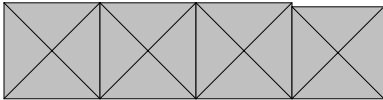
Budget Item 1 - \$230,000: Establish Water Compact Implementation Oversight Committee

- Budget Item 2 - \$250,000: Hire staff
- Budget Item 3 - \$120,000: Hire an engineering consultant
- Budget Item 4 - \$200,000: Contract for legal services

The Blackfeet Water Rights Settlement is a crucial and long-awaited step towards achieving the permanent tribal homeland promised to the Blackfeet Tribe in the treaties and agreements ratified by Congress between 1855 and 1896 that serve as the foundation of the relationship between the Tribe and the United States: *Treaty with the Blackfeet*, 1855, Oct. 17, 1855, 11

Stat., 657, Ratified Apr. 15, 1856, Proclaimed Apr. 25, 1856, *Act of April 15, 1874* (18 Stat. 28, chapter 96), *Agreement of 1888*, ratified by the Act approved May 1, 1888 (25 Stat. 113), *Agreement of 1895*, dated September 26, 1895, ratified by the Act approved June 10, 1896 (29 Stat. 321, 353).

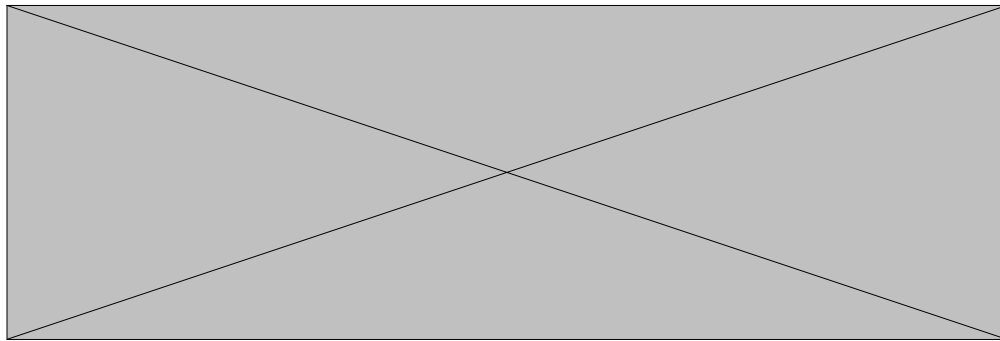
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From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-06-21T15:50:30-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Praises President Trump's Government Reform and Modernization, Welcomes NMFS back to Interior
Received: 2018-06-21T15:51:13-04:00

President Trump & Secretary Zinke, running a more efficient Federal Government for the benefit of all American tax payers...

Also the initially proposed 13 to now 12 common regionally boundary maps and information will be shared with everyone soon.



Date: June 21, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Praises President Trump's Government Reform and Modernization, Welcomes NMFS back to Interior

Executive Branch reorg strengthens Zinke's plan to modernize and reorganize Interior

WASHINGTON – In accordance with President Donald J. Trump's [Executive Order 13781](#), the Executive Branch will undergo a reorganization to better meet the needs of Americans in the 21st century. Today the President announced a proposal to merge administrative responsibilities from other agencies into the Department of the Interior to improve the efficiency of the regulatory process. In the proposal, Interior would gain the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and aspects of the Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works, while transferring some environmental cleanup programs to the Environmental Protection Agency. These moves strengthen Secretary Zinke's plan to modernize and reorganize the Department of the Interior through common regional boundaries by taking a more collaborative government approach.

"President Trump is a businessman who knows that an effective operation needs to be organized for success, which is exactly why he is leading this commonsense reorganization of the

executive branch," said **U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke**. "By merging agencies that handle similar, if not the same, functions we would be able to greatly improve services to the American people and better protect the land and wildlife under our care. At Interior, we are leading the government reform and modernization by consolidating dozens of regional bureau boundaries into 12 common unified boundaries -- down from 61 for the nine bureaus -- and pushing more assets and decision-making out into the field. This will allow government agencies to work more collaboratively on everything from wildlife and habitat management to expanding recreation access on public lands to environmental reviews and permitting infrastructure projects."

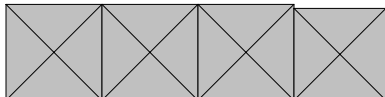
The Department of Commerce's NMFS would return to Interior and merge with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This would consolidate the administration of the Endangered Species Act and Marine Mammal Protection Act into one agency within Interior. This merger would also combine the Services' science and management capacities, resulting in more consistent federal fisheries and wildlife policy and improved service to the public, particularly on infrastructure permitting.

Interior would also take on certain duties of the Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works, such as flood and storm damage reduction, aquatic ecosystem restoration, and other regulatory activities. This realignment would allow for more rational public policy outcomes and better investments.

Additionally, some of Interior's environmental cleanup programs would be consolidated into the Environmental Protection Agency's Superfund program, which would reduce the number of decisions and approvals, eliminate policy inconsistency among agencies, and expedite the cleanup of contaminated sites.

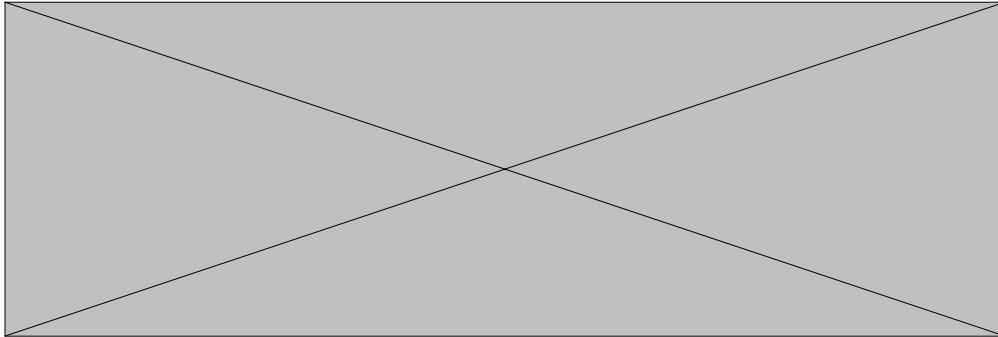
Secretary Zinke is also embarking on a historic reorganization and modernization of the Department, shifting all of the bureau regional boundaries to unified boundaries to improve collaboration and delivery of services. The Departmental reorganization and modernization will also prioritize moving more workers, assets, and decision-making authority to the west where the vast majority of the Department's work is conducted. Major areas where the Secretary sees improvement include recreation, delivering administrative services (like human resources, IT, and procurement) through updated processes and systems. Under Zinke's plan bureaus within the Department would work together on permitting projects that affect multiple bureaus, reducing the cost and the length of time required to complete a project.

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-06-25T17:47:48-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Interior Signs Agreement to Evaluate Potential Highway Transfer
Received: 2018-06-25T17:48:35-04:00

When the federal government and states come together to build better working relationships, local tax payers become the real winners...



Date: June 25, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Interior Signs Agreement to Evaluate Potential Highway Transfer

Trump Administration to work with Maryland on best future for 19-mile section of Baltimore-Washington Parkway

WASHINGTON – In an effort to carry out President Trump’s call to improve America’s infrastructure and transform our roads and bridges, the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) and the state of Maryland have signed a non-binding general agreement to work together to explore possible legislative solutions regarding future management alternatives for a 19-mile portion of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway that is administered by the National Park Service (NPS).

The agreement was signed by U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke and Maryland Governor Larry Hogan. While no decisions have been made, the agreement provides a framework for DOI to collaborate with Governor Hogan and the state of Maryland to evaluate all possibilities.

“The most direct interaction that many Americans have with our nation's infrastructure is on their everyday commute,” **Secretary Zinke said.** “This is an initial step in determining what solution best serves the American taxpayers, including those who rely on the Baltimore-Washington Parkway to travel and commute every day.”

On the American Society of Civil Engineers' 2017 Infrastructure Report Card, America's roads

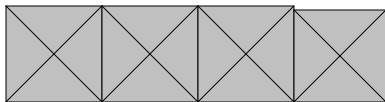
received a "D" grade. The report cites an Urban Mobility Scorecard from the Texas A&M Transportation Institute and INRIX, which indicates that in 2014, congestion cost Americans \$160 billion in lost time and spent fuel. The Scorecard lists the Washington, D.C.-Virginia-Maryland area as the urban area with the highest yearly delay per auto commuter (82 hours), tied for the highest amount of excess fuel per auto commuter (35 gallons), and the highest congestion cost per commuter (\$1,834).

The Parkway serves as a major transportation artery into Washington, D.C. with nearly 120,000 commuters daily. Ongoing development has increased traffic volumes and led to regular congestion.

“The Department of the Interior is not in the business of managing commuter highways. We owe it to the 120,000 taxpayers who use the Parkway every day to make the best possible decision to relieve traffic congestion and increase public safety in the region,” **Secretary Zinke said.** “It makes sense to explore a potential exchange of a highway for land that is more suited to the mission of the National Park Service.”

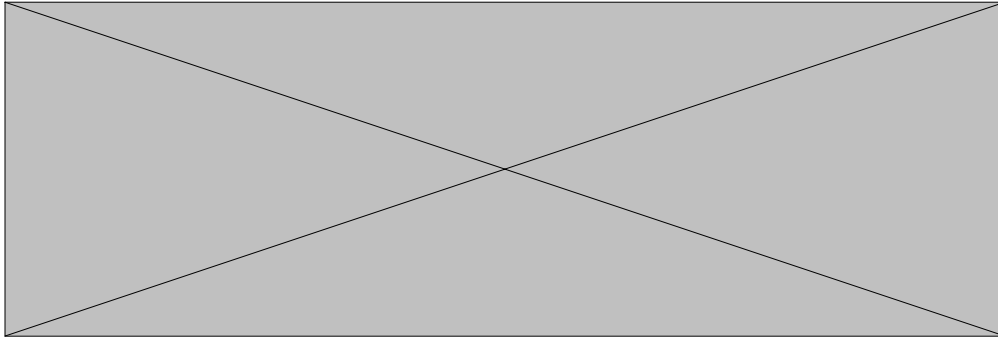
The Parkway was authorized by Congress in 1950 as an extension of the park system of the District of Columbia to be managed by the NPS. It opened in 1954 and became an alternative to U.S. Route 1, which runs parallel to the west of the Parkway. It is designated as a Historic District and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-06-27T21:40:11-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Local Communities to Receive Record \$552.8 Million in PILT
Received: 2018-06-27T21:40:52-04:00

This administration is committed to becoming a better neighbor with local communities, allow for multiple use on federal lands, and empowering rural America...



Date: June 27, 2018

Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Local Communities to Receive Record \$552.8 Million in PILT

PILT Program Compensates Communities for Supporting Nation's Public Lands, Waters; Invests in Firefighters, Police, School and Road Construction

WASHINGTON – U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke announced today that over 1,900 local governments around the country will receive \$552.8 million in Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) funding for 2018. This is the largest amount ever allocated in the program's 40-year history. This continues to underscore the Trump Administration's commitment to local communities. A full list of funding by state and county is available at www.doi.gov/pilt.

“As a kid who grew up in northwest Montana and whose sons graduated from the same high school as I did, I know how important PILT payments are to local communities that have federal lands. These investments are one of the ways the federal government is fulfilling its role of being a good land manager and good neighbor to local communities,” **said Secretary Zinke**. “Rural America, especially states out west with large federal land holdings, play a big part in feeding and powering the nation and also in providing recreation opportunities, but because the lands are federal, the local governments don't earn revenue from them. PILT investments often serve as critical support for local communities as they juggle planning and paying for basic services, such as public safety, fire-fighting, social services, and transportation.”

PILT payments are federal payments to local governments that help offset losses in property taxes due to non-taxable federal lands within their boundaries. PILT payments help local

governments carry out such vital services as firefighting and police protection, construction of public schools and roads, and search-and-rescue operations. The payments are made annually for tax-exempt federal lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (all agencies of the Department of the Interior), the U.S. Forest Service (part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture), and for federal water projects and some military installations. PILT payments are one of the ways the federal government can fulfill its role of being a good neighbor to local communities.

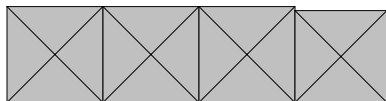
Using a formula provided by statute, the annual PILT payments to local governments are computed based on the number of acres of federal land within each county or jurisdiction and the population of that county or jurisdiction.

Since PILT payments began in 1977, Interior has distributed approximately \$8.5 billion dollars to states and the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The Department collects more than \$9.6 billion in revenue annually from commercial activities on public lands, such as oil and gas leasing, livestock grazing and timber harvesting. A portion of these revenues is shared with states and counties. The balance is deposited in the U.S. Treasury, which in turn pays for a broad array of federal activities, including PILT funding.

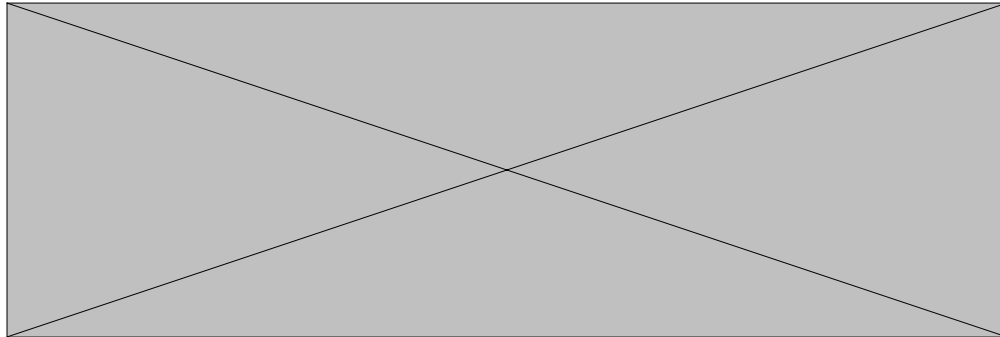
Individual county payments may vary from year to year as a result of changes in acreage data, which is updated yearly by the federal agency administering the land; prior year Federal Revenue Sharing payments reported yearly by the Governor of each State; and population data, which is updated using information from the U.S. Census Bureau. Federal Revenue Sharing payments are made to local governments under programs other than PILT during the previous fiscal year, including payments such as those made under the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act, the Refuge Revenue Sharing Fund, the National Forest Fund, the Taylor Grazing Act, the Mineral Leasing Act, the Federal Power Act, and the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, when authorized.

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-07-01T14:48:23-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Promises Made, Promises Kept: Interior Issues \$35.2 Million Settlement to North Carolina County
Received: 2018-07-01T14:49:01-04:00

Despite the behavior of previous administrations, the Trump Administration will make good on its promises... rural America will be forgotten no more!!



Date: June 30, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Promises Made, Promises Kept: Interior Issues \$35.2 Million Settlement to North Carolina County

Swain County settlement makes good on Administration's prioritization of rural America, keeping promises to citizens

WASHINGTON – Following through on the Trump Administration's priorities of keeping promises to the American people and being a good neighbor, the U.S. Department of the Interior today honored a commitment made more than 70 years ago to residents of Swain County, North Carolina by way of a \$35.2 million settlement. The announcement was made by U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke, Senator Thom Tillis, Congressman Mark Meadows and local officials at an event at the Swain County Heritage Museum in Bryson City, North Carolina.

The settlement stems from a 1943 promise from the Federal Government to rebuild the 30-mile North Shore Road that was flooded to build the Fontana Dam.

"The Administration and the Department of the Interior will continue to ensure that promises made are kept—even ones made more than seven decades ago," **said Secretary Zinke.**

"Working with Senator Tillis, Senator Burr and Congressman Meadows to deliver this settlement today to the great people of Swain County truly illustrates our commitment to being a good neighbor and in ensuring that rural Americans are no longer forgotten."

"Repaying the federal government's obligations to Swain County has been my priority since I

took office, and I'm proud of the work I've done alongside my colleagues and the Administration on a solution," **said Senator Thom Tillis.** "Today represents the beginning of the end of Swain County's long fight to receive the funds from the North Shore Road settlement. The Department of the Interior's commitment to reimburse the \$35.2 million and make good on the promise to repay Swain County is great news for the community and taxpayers."

"Today is a long-awaited victory for the people of Swain County. When I arrived in Congress in 2013, on day one, my office began working with the Department of the Interior to see to it that the residents of Swain County receive the money they should have been paid long ago," **said Congressman Mark Meadows.** "Since he took office last year, President Trump's administration and Secretary Ryan Zinke have shown an unparalleled commitment to making this situation right—and just as they committed, they are delivering. I want to thank the President, Secretary, and so many Swain County leaders who worked hard on this for years. This is a tremendous day for our community."

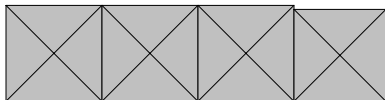
"I'm glad to see that Secretary Zinke made it a priority of his to follow through on commitments the Department of the Interior made many years ago," **said Senator Richard Burr.** "More than seven decades have passed since the federal government agreed to compensate Swain County for roads flooded during the building of the Fontana Dam. I thank Secretary Zinke for his attention on this important issue, and so do the residents of Swain County."

"We would like to thank President Trump and his administration, particularly Secretary Zinke along with Senator Tillis, Senator Burr, Congressman Meadows and their staff for diligently working to bring closure to a long standing issue," **said Swain County Chairman Phil Carson.** "This has been a burden to the citizens of Swain County for 75 years and will help bring healing to our community."

The government failed to deliver on the 1943 promise and in 2007 agreed to a cash settlement of \$52 million. In 2010 the Department of the Interior, Swain County, the State of North Carolina and Tennessee Valley Authority entered into a "Memorandum of Agreement" to "settle any and all claims under the 1943 Agreement." Until September 2017, the county had only received \$12.8 million.

In September of 2017, Secretary Zinke released another \$4 million to the county that had been previously appropriated, but had not been released. On June 6, 2018, the Secretary formally announced plans to close out the remaining \$35.2 million settlement with the county.

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-07-10T15:36:20-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: **POTUS Issues Full Pardon of the Hammonds**
Received: 2018-07-10T15:39:08-04:00

President Trump's administration is working hard to right the injustice and blatant wrongs of the previous administration.

Historically and event today, rural Americans are the heart and soul of this great nation. The forgotten man and woman of America are forgotten no more...

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 10, 2018

Statement from the Press Secretary Regarding Executive Clemency for Dwight and Steven Hammond

Today, President Donald J. Trump signed Executive Grants of Clemency (Full Pardons) for Dwight Lincoln Hammond, Jr., and his son, Steven Hammond. The Hammonds are multi-generation cattle ranchers in Oregon imprisoned in connection with a fire that leaked onto a small portion of neighboring public grazing land. The evidence at trial regarding the Hammonds' responsibility for the fire was conflicting, and the jury acquitted them on most of the charges.

At the Hammonds' original sentencing, the judge noted that they are respected in the community and that imposing the mandatory minimum, 5-year prison sentence would "shock the conscience" and be "grossly disproportionate to the severity" of their conduct. As a result, the judge imposed significantly lesser sentences. The previous administration, however, filed an overzealous appeal that resulted in the Hammonds being sentenced to five years in prison. This was unjust.

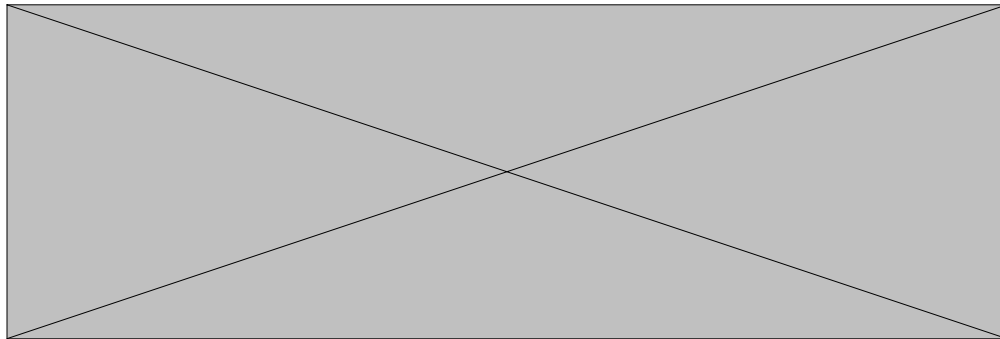
Dwight Hammond is now 76 years old and has served approximately three years in prison. Steven Hammond is 49 and has served approximately four years in prison. They have also paid \$400,000 to the United States to settle a related civil suit. The Hammonds are devoted family men, respected contributors to their local community, and have widespread support from their neighbors, local law enforcement, and farmers and ranchers across the West. Justice is overdue for Dwight and Steven Hammond, both of whom are entirely deserving of these Grants of Executive Clemency.

###

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-07-12T16:37:06-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Interior Announces Region-wide Oil and Gas Lease Sale for Gulf of Mexico
Received: 2018-07-12T16:37:39-04:00

Another step towards American energy dominance...

160 million acres, contains about 48 billion barrels of undiscovered technically recoverable oil and 141 trillion cubic feet of undiscovered technically recoverable gas.



Date: July 12, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Interior Announces Region-wide Oil and Gas Lease Sale for Gulf of Mexico

Final Notice of Sale outlines all available areas in federal waters

WASHINGTON – In support of President Donald J. Trump's America-First Offshore Energy Strategy, Deputy Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt announced that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) will offer approximately 78 million acres offshore Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida for oil and gas exploration and development. The region-wide lease sale scheduled for Aug. 15, 2018, includes all available unleased areas in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

“Responsibly developing our offshore energy resources is a major pillar of this Administration’s energy strategy,” **said Deputy Secretary Bernhardt**. “We look forward to this important sale, as the Gulf of Mexico continues to be the crown jewel of the Outer Continental Shelf. A strong offshore energy program supports tens of thousands of well-paying jobs and provides the affordable and reliable energy Americans need to heat homes, fuel our cars, and power our economy.”

Lease Sale 251, scheduled to be livestreamed from New Orleans, will be the third offshore sale under the National Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2017-2022. Under this program, ten region-wide lease sales are scheduled for the Gulf, where resource

potential and industry interest are high, and oil and gas infrastructure is well established. Two Gulf lease sales will be held each year and include all available blocks in the combined Western, Central, and Eastern Gulf of Mexico Planning Areas.

“Powering America and protecting the offshore environment are not mutually exclusive,” **said Counselor to the Secretary for Energy Policy, Vincent DeVito**. “We can do both. American energy production can be competitive, while remaining safe and environmentally sound. This lease sale is just one piece of the Administration’s comprehensive effort to secure our Nation’s energy future.”

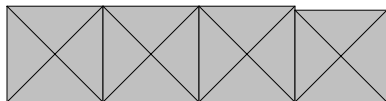
Lease Sale 251 will include approximately 14,622 unleased blocks, located from three to 231 miles offshore, in the Gulf’s Western, Central and Eastern planning areas in water depths ranging from nine to more than 11,115 feet (three to 3,400 meters). The Gulf of Mexico OCS, covering about 160 million acres, contains about 48 billion barrels of undiscovered technically recoverable oil and 141 trillion cubic feet of undiscovered technically recoverable gas.

Additionally, BOEM has included appropriate fiscal terms that take into account market conditions and ensure taxpayers receive a fair return for use of the OCS. These terms include a 12.5 percent royalty rate for leases in less than 200 meters of water depth, and a royalty rate of 18.75 percent for all other leases issued pursuant to the sale, in recognition of current hydrocarbon price conditions and the marginal nature of remaining Gulf of Mexico shallow water resources.

All terms and conditions for Gulf of Mexico Region-wide Sale 251 are detailed in the Final Notice of Sale (FNOS) information package, which will be available for viewing on July 13, 2018 at: <http://www.boem.gov/Sale-251/>. Copies of the FNOS maps can be requested from the Gulf of Mexico Region’s Public Information Unit at [1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, LA 70123](mailto:201-Elmwood-Park-Boulevard-New-Orleans-LA-70123), or at 800-200-GULF (4853).

The FNOS will be available for inspection in the Federal Register at: <http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/public-inspection/index.html> on July 13, 2018 and will be published in the Federal Register on July 16, 2018.

###



Cc: Jennifer Butler[butler@spn.org]
From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-07-13T12:01:06-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: **Reminder to RSVP** Public Policy Roundtable With Secretary Zinke
Received: 2018-07-13T12:01:50-04:00
[Invite For Public Policy Roundtable - State-Based Groups.pdf](#)

Greetings Everyone,

This is a reminder to RSVP for an online live stream, for one of the most important roundtable meetings of the year in an effort to "drain the swamp." This event will take place on July 17th 10am - 12pm EDT here at the U.S Department of the Interior.

RSVP by clicking

[HERE](#) by 12pm Monday July 16th in order to receive your personalized log-in information.

Secretary Zinke is hosting leadership representing the most influential right-of-center national organizations in a discussion regarding reorganization, one of the President's top priorities. Due to limited seating, we won't be able to host everyone in the room, yet we would love to broadcast this event to you via an online live stream.

We would like your organization involved with this process and want to hear your thoughts on how we can ensure that reorganizing the Department of the Interior will benefit all Americans by reducing administrative redundancy, sharing resources more effectively, improving coordination among federal, state, and local agencies, and drive more decisions to be made at the regional level rather than in Washington D.C.

"It's been almost 100 years since anybody really reorganized the government at this type of scale," said OMB Director Mick Mulvaney. "We're still dealing with a government that is from the early 20th Century."

Thanks to Secretary Zinke's leadership, The U.S Department of the Interior is the tip of the spear in this administration's efforts to reorganize the Federal Government. Again RSVP by clicking [HERE](#) by 12pm Monday July 16th in order to receive your personalized log-in information.

Thank You,

Jason Funes

Special Assistant

Intergovernmental and External Affairs

Office of the Secretary

Department of the Interior

Office: (202) 208-5541

Cell: (202) 897-7189



*You are cordially invited to attend the
Department of the Interior's*

Public Policy Executive Roundtable

Reorganizing the Department of the Interior for the next 100 years

A Summit hosted by Secretary Ryan Zinke

Tuesday, July seventeenth of two thousand and eighteen
from 10:00am-12:00pm

U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Click [HERE](#) by COB Friday, July 13th in order to receive details and logistical
information to virtually attend this meeting

If you have any questions please contact: Jason_Funes@ios.doi.gov

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-07-18T11:25:25-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: ESA Reform Conference Call - **Reminder to RSVP**
Received: 2018-07-18T11:26:03-04:00

Greetings,

Tomorrow, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries will jointly announce proposed revisions to portions of their regulations that implement key sections of the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will host a telephone briefing on Thursday, July 19. Details on how to participate in this briefing are provided below:

When: July 19 at 12:00 p.m. EST

Who: Greg Sheehan, Principal Deputy Director, USFWS
Gary Frazer, Assistant Director – Ecological Services, USFWS

How: Please Click here to **RSVP**. We will send you the call in number and pass code prior to the call.

Please be prepared to provide your name and affiliation.

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-07-19T09:29:03-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: **Reminder to RSVP** - Endangered Species Act Reform Conference Call
Received: 2018-07-19T09:29:47-04:00

Greetings,

TODAY at 12pm EDT, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries will jointly announce proposed revisions to portions of their regulations that implement key sections of the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Please disregard this email if you have already RSVP'd. However share this invite with your internal colleagues that would have interest in this call.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will host a telephone briefing on Thursday, July 19. Details on how to participate in this briefing are provided below:

When: July 19 at 12:00 p.m. EST
Who: Greg Sheehan, Principal Deputy Director, USFWS

Craig Aubrey, Chief of the Division of Environmental Review, Fish and Wildlife Service, USFWS

Bridget Fahey, Chief of the Division of Conservation and Classification, USFWS
How: Please [Click here to RSVP for today's call](#). We will send you the call-in number and pass code **1 hour before the call**.
Please be prepared to provide your name and affiliation.

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-07-19T13:27:46-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: **Press Release** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries Seek Public Input on Proposed Reforms to Improve & Modernize Implementation of the Endangered Species Act
Received: 2018-07-19T13:28:37-04:00

We need your public comments to reform and modernize the current ESA regulations. Your comments TRULY matter and will shape the changes made.

The Federal Register will be open for public comments on Monday 7/23, and below is a link to the FWS website for more information regarding the proposed changes.

https://www.fws.gov/endangered/improving_ESA/regulation-revisions.html



NEWS RELEASE

July 19, 2018

Contact:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: gavin_shire@fws.gov, 703-358-2649

NOAA Fisheries: katherine.brogan@noaa.gov, 301-427-8030

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries Seek Public Input on Proposed Reforms to Improve & Modernize Implementation of the Endangered Species Act

Continuing efforts to improve how the Endangered Species Act (ESA) is implemented, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries today proposed revisions to certain regulations to ensure clarity and consistency. The changes incorporate public input, best science and best practices to improve reliability, regulatory efficiency and environmental stewardship.

“The Trump Administration is dedicated to being a good neighbor and being a better partner with the communities in which we operate. One thing we heard over and over again was that ESA implementation was not consistent and often times very confusing to navigate. We are proposing these improvements to produce the best conservation results for the species while reducing the regulatory burden on the American people,” said U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Principal Deputy Director Greg Sheehan. “We value public input and have already incorporated initial public comments we received in response to our notices of intent published in 2017. We encourage the public to provide us additional feedback to help us finalize these rules.”

“We work to ensure effective conservation measures to recover our most imperiled species,” said Chris Oliver, NOAA Assistant Administrator for Fisheries. “The changes being proposed today are designed to bring additional clarity and consistency to the implementation of the act across our agencies, and we look forward to additional feedback from the public as part of this process.”

Several proposed changes relate to section 4 of the ESA, which deals with procedures for listing species, recovery and designating critical habitat (areas essential to support the conservation of a species). First, the agencies propose to revise the procedures for designating critical habitat by reinstating the requirement that they will first evaluate areas currently occupied by the species before considering unoccupied areas. Second, the agencies propose to clarify when they may determine unoccupied areas are essential to the conservation of the species.

While the agencies recognize the value of critical habitat as a conservation tool, in some cases, designation of critical habitat is not prudent. Accordingly, they are proposing a non-exhaustive list of circumstances where they may find that designation for a particular species would not be prudent. The agencies anticipate that such not-prudent determinations will continue to be rare and expect to designate critical habitat in most cases.

The ESA defines a threatened species as one that is likely to become in danger of extinction within the “foreseeable future.” For the first time, the agencies are proposing an interpretation of “foreseeable future” to make it clear that it extends only as far as they can reasonably determine that both the future threats and the species’ responses to those threats are probable.

The agencies are also clarifying that decisions to delist a species are made using the same standard as decisions to list species. In both cases, that standard is whether a species meets the established ESA definition of an endangered species or threatened species.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is separately proposing to rescind its blanket rule under section 4(d) of the ESA, which automatically conveyed the same protections for threatened species as for endangered species unless otherwise specified. This brings its regulatory approach to threatened species protections in line with NOAA Fisheries, which has not employed such a blanket rule. The proposed changes would impact only future listings or downlistings and would not apply to those species already listed as threatened. The U.S. Fish

and Wildlife Service will craft species-specific 4(d) rules for each future threatened species determination that are necessary and advisable for the conservation of the species, as has been standard practice for most species listed as threatened in recent years.

“No two species are the same, and so by crafting species-specific 4(d) rules for threatened species, we can tailor appropriate protections using best available science according to each species’ biological needs,” said Sheehan. “By creating a clearer regulatory distinction between threatened and endangered species, we are also encouraging partners to invest in conservation that has the potential to improve a species’ status, helping us work towards our ultimate goal: recovery.”

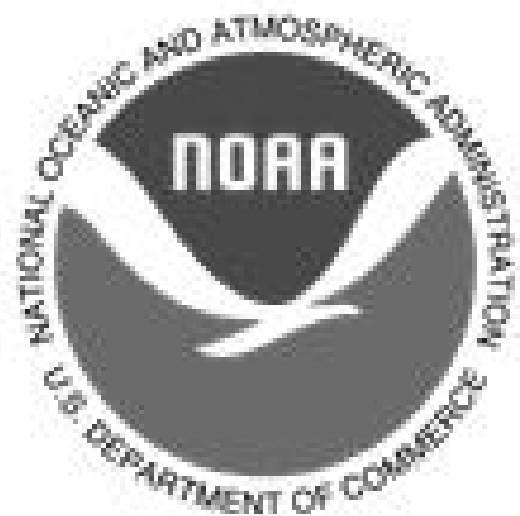
Under section 7 of the ESA, other federal agencies consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries to ensure their actions are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species or result in “destruction or adverse modification” of critical habitat. The proposed rule simplifies and clarifies the definition of “destruction or adverse modification” by removing redundant and confusing language. The proposed rule is not intended to alter existing consultation practice; rather, it seeks to revise and clarify language that was confusing to other federal agencies and the public.

Additional proposed revisions to the consultation regulations will clarify whether and how the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries consider proposed measures to avoid, minimize or offset adverse effects to listed species or their critical habitat when conducting interagency consultations and will improve the consultation process by clarifying how biological opinions and interagency submissions should be formulated.

The proposed rules are available [here](#) and will publish in the *Federal Register* in coming days, including detailed information on how the public can submit written comments and information concerning these provisions.

Comments must be received within 60 days of publication. All comments will be posted on <http://www.regulations.gov>. This generally means any personal information provided through the process will be posted.

Jason Funes
Special Assistant
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5541



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-07-24T20:20:20-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: **Reminder** ESA Reform Informational Webinar 7/25 & 7/30 *Access Information Included*
Received: 2018-07-24T20:20:55-04:00
[Info Regarding ESA Reform.pdf](#)
[Myths vs. Facts of Proposed ESA Reforms.pdf](#)
[Proposed ESA Reg Revisions - External Webinar Slides.pptx](#)

Esteemed Colleagues,

Below is information for public webinars/conference call regarding ESA reform. You are welcomed to partake in both, yet tomorrow's webinar (7/25 at 1:30pm EST) is directed towards "non-governmental and conservation partners" and next Monday's webinar (7/30 at 2:30pm EST) is dedicated to "infrastructure partners."

Attached are three informational documents regarding the proposed ESA reform including the slides for tomorrow's webinar. Public comment period on this issue opens tomorrow.

Feel free to call or email me any questions that you may have.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries Propose Changes to Improve Implementation of Endangered Species Act

What: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries (Services) are proposing revisions to portions of their regulations that implement two key sections of the Endangered Species Act. The changes are part of an ongoing effort to improve implementation of the ESA so that our actions are clear and consistent, and provide the maximum degree of regulatory predictability to those who are affected by the Act.

These changes are being proposed to initiate a transparent public process. We encourage the public to provide input to ensure our regulations are clear and effective in advancing our goal of recovery. The proposals are aimed at reducing the regulatory burden on citizens, while simultaneously encouraging collaborative conservation from a broad range of partners to make the ESA as effective as possible in achieving its goal – recovery of our most imperiled species to the point they no longer need federal protection. You can learn more about the proposed revisions announced today at https://www.fws.gov/endangered/improving_ESA/regulation-revisions.html.

1st WEBINAR

When: July 25, 2018; 1:30 PM EST

Who: Non-governmental and Conservation partners

How: Conference Call and Webinar

Number: [REDACTED]
(b)(5)

Passcode:

Participants can join the event directly at:

<https://www.mymeetings.com/nc/join.php?i=PWXW7841466&p=2437166&t=c>

2nd WEBINAR

When: July 30, 2018; 2:30 PM EST

Who: Infrastructure partners

How: Conference Call and Webinar

Number: (b)(5)

Passcode:

Participants can join the event directly at:

<https://www.mymeetings.com/nc/join.php?i=PWXW7841469&p=4386820&t=c>

Please be prepared to provide your name and affiliation

Jason Funes

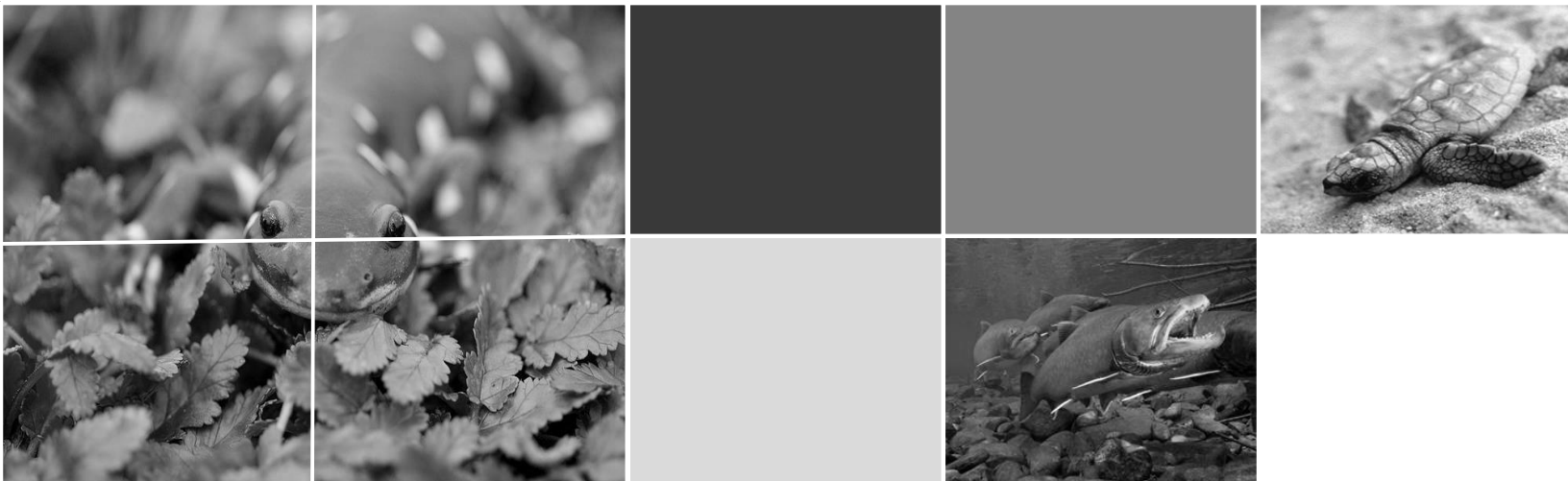
Special Assistant

Intergovernmental and External Affairs

Office of the Secretary

Department of the Interior

Office: (202) 208-5541



Endangered Species Act


Proposed Revisions to the Regulations





Background

- Section 4 of the Act
 - Provides for how to add and remove species from the Federal lists of threatened and endangered species
 - Provides procedures for designating critical habitat
 - Implementing regulations are at 50 CFR 424
 - Addresses protective regulations for threatened species (i.e., 4(d) rules)
- Section 7 of the Act
 - Provides requirements for Federal agency cooperation and consultation procedures
 - Implementing regulations are at 50 CFR 402
- Section 9 of the Act
 - Establishes prohibitions for listed species
 - Implementing regulations are at 50 CFR 17



How were the proposed revisions made?

- Implementing an Executive Order aimed at reducing the regulatory burden on citizens and promoting innovation
- DOI and NMFS requested public input on regulatory reform initiatives (June 2017 Federal Register)
- DOI and DOC Policy Officials met with the FWS and NMFS ESA leadership in Dec 2017 to brainstorm improvements to the ESA – decided to focus on sections 4 and 7 of ESA
- Underwent Federal interagency review led by the Office of Management and Budget



Proposed Changes to 50 CFR 424

Listing, Delisting, or Reclassifying species

- Creates a regulatory framework for the phrase “foreseeable future”
- Clarifies that the standard for listing and delisting of species is the same
- Removes reference to economic or other impacts in classification decisions



Proposed Changes to 50 CFR 424

Criteria for Designating Critical Habitat

- Clarifies when designation of critical habitat may not be prudent
- Revises the process and standards for designation of unoccupied critical habitat

Foreseeable Future

- Extends only so far as we can reasonably determine that conditions potentially posing a danger of extinction in the foreseeable future are probable.
- Described on a case-by-case basis, using the best available data for each species
- No specific timeframes are necessary, qualitative descriptions are ok
- Based on a reasonable determination that both the future threats and the species' responses to those threats are probable.

Factors Considered in Delisting

- Clarifies that the standard for listing and delisting of species is the same (i.e., whether a species meets the definitions of endangered or threatened)
- Clarifies it is appropriate to delist a species when:
 - It is extinct
 - It does not meet definition of an endangered or threatened species
 - Listed entity does not meet the definition of a species

Economic or Other Impacts

- Aligns the regulatory text more closely to the statutory language
- Removes “without reference to possible economic or other impacts of such determination”
- Determination made *solely* on the basis of the best available scientific and commercial information regarding a species’ status
- Impacts information, if compiled, would be to inform the public in the interest of transparency

Critical Habitat – Not Prudent

- Critical habitat may be not prudent when:
 - Increased degree of threat
 - Habitat impacts not a threat or threats to habitat stem solely from causes not able to be addressed by section 7(a)(2) of the Act
 - Areas within U.S. jurisdiction provide no more than negligible conservation value for species occurring primarily outside U.S. jurisdiction
 - No areas meet definition
- Removes language regarding “designation of critical habitat would not be beneficial to the species”

Designating Unoccupied CH

- First evaluate areas occupied by the species
- Only consider unoccupied areas to be essential when occupied areas would:
 - Be inadequate to ensure conservation of the species or
 - Result in less efficient conservation of the species
 - Efficient conservation for the species refers to situations where the conservation is effective, societal conflicts are minimized, and resources expended are commensurate with the benefit to the species.

Designating Unoccupied CH, cont.

- Only designate unoccupied areas upon a determination that such areas are essential for the conservation of the species
- An area can only be considered essential if the Secretary determines there is a reasonable likelihood that the area will contribute to the conservation of the species



Proposed Changes -- 50 CFR 402

The proposed revisions would:

- Address alternative consultation mechanisms
- Revise the definitions of “destruction or adverse modification” and “effects of the action”
- Address certainty of mitigation proposed by action agencies
- Otherwise improve the consultation process

Addressing Alternative Consultation Mechanisms

- Define “programmatic consultation”
- Allow the Services to adopt all or part of a Federal agency’s initiation package in their biological opinions
- Insert a new provision – Expedited consultation – to offer opportunities to streamline consultation in certain circumstances

Clarifying “Effects of the Action”

- Revise the definition of “effects of the action”
- Insert a new section that clarifies “Activities reasonably certain to occur”
- Propose a standalone definition for “environmental baseline”
- Clarify what information is needed to initiate consultation

Revising the Definition of “Destruction or Adverse Modification”

- Add the phrase “as a whole” to the first sentence
- Strike the definition’s second sentence

Revising the Definition of “Destruction or Adverse Modification”

Revised definition would be:

Destruction or adverse modification means a direct or indirect alteration that appreciably diminishes the value of critical habitat as a whole for the conservation of a listed species.

Addressing Certainty of Mitigation

Clarify that measures included in a proposed action or reasonable and prudent alternative to avoid, minimize, or offset the effects of a proposed action will not be held to a higher standard than other portions of the action

Otherwise Improving the Consultation Process

- Clarify the analytical steps the Services undertake in formulating a biological opinion
- Clarify that reinitiation of consultation applies to all 7(a)(2) consultations (acknowledges court rulings and practice)
- Eliminate need to reinitiate consultation on certain land management plans upon listing of new species or designation of new critical habitat
 - Potentially expand to other types of programmatic land or water management plans
 - in light of the recently enacted Omnibus language we will consider whether to retain this provision in our final rule

Other Potential Consultation Improvements

We are also seeking input on potentially:

- Establishing a deadline for informal consultation
- Codifying the ability to conduct a single consultation, resulting in a single biological opinion, for Federal agency actions affecting species that are under the jurisdiction of both FWS and NMFS
- Revising the definition of “environmental baseline” as it relates to ongoing Federal actions
- Clarifying the circumstances upon which Federal agencies are not required to consult

Other Potential Consultation Improvements

We are also seeking input on potentially:

- Limiting the scope of a consultation to only the activities, areas, and effects within the jurisdictional control and responsibility of the regulatory agency.



Proposed Changes to 4(d) Rules 50 CFR Part 17 (FWS Only)

- Rescinds current regulations that automatically apply prohibitions for endangered species to threatened species
- Protections for species listed as threatened in the future will be made on a case-by-case basis tailored to what is necessary and advisable for that species (i.e., via a species-specific 4(d) rule)
- No change in protections for species currently listed as threatened
- Aligns the Fish and Wildlife Service with the National Marine Fisheries Service practice

Questions?



Notes Summary:

Slide 1: '.'

Slide 2: 'There are many more sections of the Act - these are the three that the revisions we are announcing are focused on.'

Slide 3: 'Remember to explain all acronyms at first use - DOI and DOC

Stress that career FWS and NMFS employees with many years of ESA experience contributed to the ideas put forward.'

Slide 4: 'These are the changes in the regs themselves; the preamble language provides more information for context.'

Slide 8: ''

Slide 9: '

Non-exhaustive list

No benefit language removed because subject to litigation and adverse case law'

Slide 18: 'Discuss Omnibus language - audience may not know'

Proposed ESA Reform Information

Why we are doing this:

- In 2017, President Donald J. Trump directed Federal agencies to seek public input on how the Federal government can improve upon the regulatory framework. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA/Fisheries received substantial input from a wide range of stakeholders on modernizing the implementation of the Endangered Species Act in order to improve collaboration, efficiency, and effectiveness.
- The ultimate goal of the ESA is recovery. By proposing actions that encourage collaborative conservation from a broad range of partners, we can make the ESA more effective in reaching that fundamental objective and return management of recovered species to the states.
- States, environmental and business groups, members of the public, and the career professionals of the FWS and NOAA/Fisheries have all encouraged efforts to improve ESA implementation through revision of our implementing regulations.

Improving the ESA:

- The ESA has done some incredible work for conservation; however, there are certainly tweaks we can make to modernize and improve the implementation of the Act. This is part of an ongoing effort to improve implementation of the ESA so that our actions are clear and consistent, and provide the maximum degree of regulatory predictability to those who are affected by the Act.
- These changes were informed and drafted through a robust, collaborative process involving policy leadership of Interior and Commerce and experienced career professionals of FWS and NOAA/Fisheries.
- These changes are being proposed to initiate a transparent public process. We encourage the public to provide input to ensure our regulations are clear and effective in advancing our goal of recovery.

SECTION 4

Rescinding the Blanket 4(d) Rule

- The ESA provides protections that distinguish between endangered species and threatened species. Full protections are automatically applied to endangered species, but the Services can tailor protections for threatened species by means of species-specific “4(d) rules.”
- The Fish and Wildlife Service has long had a “blanket 4(d)” rule, which automatically applies all the Act’s protections in cases where FWS has not developed a species-specific 4(d) rule. To be more consistent with the Act and its intended system of tiered protection, FWS is proposing to rescind this blanket 4(d) rule.
- The proposed reform is not retroactive and would affect only future listings and downlisting to threatened.
- During the past decade, FWS has generally issued species-specific 4(d) rules when listing species as threatened and has found significant benefit from doing so. Practically, this change reflects current FWS practice to employ the 4(d) provision of the Act on a case-by-case basis.
- Examples of how species-specific 4(d) rules have been used already to provide conservation benefit:
 - The California tiger salamander 4(d) rule allowed grazing to continue, because keeping the habitat in grazing kept the habitat intact for the salamander.
 - In the southeastern U.S., the black pine snake 4(d) rule allows most routine forest management activities to continue to occur, because the Service recognizes that active forest management is necessary to maintain habitat suitability.
 - In Washington state and Oregon, the streaked horned lark 4(d) rule streamlines ESA compliance for restoration and conservation actions, such as noxious weed control.

Definition of “Foreseeable Future”

- This is the approach we have been using for about a decade, and is not a change from our now-long-established practice. However, by codifying our approach in regulation, it will make us more transparent to everyone.
- We are clarifying that the foreseeable future extends only so far as we can reasonably determine that the conditions posing the potential danger of extinction are probable.

Clarifying that the Standard for Listing and Delisting are the Same

- The ESA is clear in its requirement that when a species is in danger of extinction, either now or in the foreseeable future, it should receive the Act’s protection. Likewise, when the ESA has done its job and the species is no longer in danger of extinction, it should be

delisted. The standard under the law for listing and delisting must be the same – whether the species meets the Act’s definitions of an endangered species or a threatened species – to provide regulatory certainty and consistency.

- When some of our delisting decisions have been challenged, courts have sometimes appeared to set a higher bar for removing a species from the list than for listing a species (For example, gray wolves; bald eagle).
- Keeping species on the list when they no longer face the threat of extinction takes valuable resources away from those species that do warrant protection under the Act and discourages the kind of state and private partnerships that are essential for the conservation of plants and wildlife that need our help.

Occupied vs Unoccupied Critical Habitat

- Critical habitat plays a valuable, though often misunderstood, role in recovering species. Critical habitat designations describe those areas that are important for recovery of a species. Some of the uncertainty arises because an area can be considered important for recovery even when it is not currently occupied by the species in question.
- We are providing clarity to the public that we only designate unoccupied critical habitat when occupied areas are inadequate to ensure the conservation of the species or if inclusion of unoccupied areas would result in more effective conservation, would minimize societal conflicts, or ensure that resources expended are commensurate with the benefit to the species.

SECTION 7

Federal Consultation

- Interagency consultations are a cornerstone of the ESA that ensure federal actions do not jeopardize the continued existence of our most at-risk wildlife.
- We want to make the smartest use of our limited resources and ensure that the effort expended on federal consultation is commensurate with the risk to the species. We have learned through experience that certain types of federal actions are so far removed from any potential to jeopardize ESA-listed species or harm their critical habitat that full-blown consultation on these actions does little to further the purposes of the ESA.
- For example, in 2016, FWS issued streamlined consultation guidance for certain restoration and recovery projects that result in high conservation value for species but may have a small amount of incidental take. This guidance incentivizes federal agencies to carry out activities to help recover listed species, reduces consultation timeframes, and allows the FWS to focus its limited resources on other priority actions. This proposed rule affirms our authority to use such streamlining methods.
- Streamlining the consultation process helps with timely decisionmaking on critical infrastructure and other projects important for job creation and economic development, without compromising the conservation purposes of the section 7 consultation process.

- Every project will receive the necessary due diligence and consultation to ensure full compliance with ESA.

Minimizing/Offsetting Adverse Effects

- Federal agencies often include as part of their action measures to avoid, minimize, or offset adverse effects to ESA-listed species or critical habitat.
- Courts have sometimes appeared to set a higher standard for certainty of implementing mitigation actions than for implementing the development activity itself. Our proposed rule clarifies that these mitigation measures should be held to the same standard of certainty as the associated development action.

Clarifying the Information Needed for Consultations

- A lack of clarity in what information we need to initiate formal consultations with federal agencies has led to frequent confusion and a loss of valuable time while we work with the agencies to compile the necessary information.
- By clarifying what we need to initiate consultation, we will shorten the time it takes for consultations and ensure taxpayer dollars are spent wisely and efficiently.
- We are not proposing to require any more or less information than existing practice.

Definition of “Destruction or Adverse Modification”

- We are removing confusing language from the existing definition without changing the substance of the standard

Definition of “Effects of the Action”

- Clarifying the definition of “effects of the action” will help decrease the resources needed for federal agencies and applicants to describe the effects of their actions to listed species or critical habitat when engaged in section 7 consultation. .
- The clarification will reduce confusion over terms in the existing definition.

Programmatic Consultations

- Programmatic consultations are useful in evaluating the effects of multiple related actions within a particular geographic area and in assessing federal agency programs that establish standards, guidelines or governing criteria for future actions. Increased use of programmatic consultations will streamline the consultation process, increase predictability and consistency for federal agencies and applicants, and improve conservation outcomes.

- For example, the average number of days needed to complete consultation for activities covered by a programmatic biological opinion with the Federal Highway Administration decreased from 133 to 14 after completion of the programmatic biological opinion.

The Myths VS. Facts of Proposed ESA Reform

These changes are part of an administration goal to gut the ESA/It's for industry/pushing an agenda...

- This is patently false. Anyone who is making such alarmist claims clearly has not actually read the proposal.
- Many of the proposed changes have been recommended or conceptually supported by environmental and conservation organizations over the years.
- This proposal was crafted over several months through a collaborative process involving policy leadership of Interior and Commerce and veteran career officials at the USFWS and the NMFS.

Protections for threatened species will suffer as a result of changes to the 4(d) rule

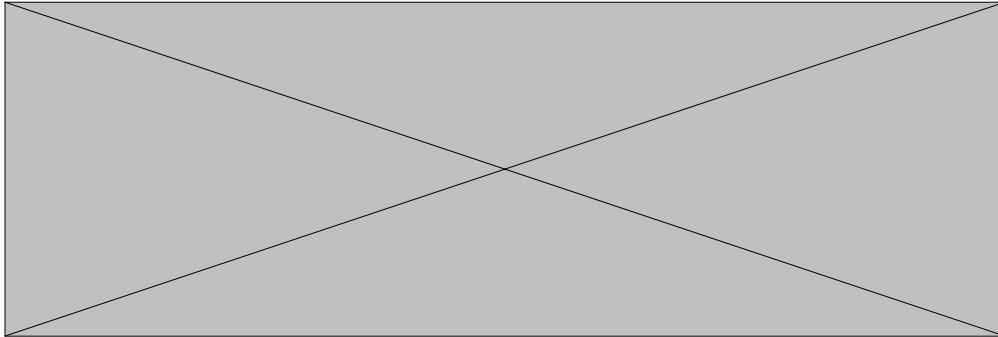
- That's demonstrably false.
- First, this rule is not retroactive and therefore would only apply to future listings and downlistings.
- Second, we are adopting the same proven strategy that NOAA has implemented for decades.
- Lastly, USFWS has been generally following this process for about a decade.
- Examples of species-specific 4(d) rules have been used successfully:
 - The California tiger salamander 4(d) rule allowed grazing to continue, because keeping the habitat in grazing kept the habitat intact for the salamander.
 - In the southeastern U.S., the black pine snake 4(d) rule allows most routine forest management activities to continue to occur, because the Service recognizes that active forest management is necessary to maintain habitat suitability.
 - In Washington state and Oregon, the streaked horned lark 4(d) rule streamlines ESA compliance for restoration and conservation actions, such as noxious weed control.

Streamlining consultations is just another term for rubber-stamping

- That's easily proven false and is the sort of rhetoric opponents use when they have no substance to argue.
- Every project will continue to receive the necessary due diligence and consultation to ensure full compliance with ESA.

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-07-26T19:21:58-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: North Dakota Indian Affairs Law Enforcement Officers Honored by Trump Administration
Received: 2018-07-26T19:22:36-04:00

The deadly opioid epidemic is effecting ALL Americans, therefore ALL law enforcement agencies are working hard to keep our streets clean while also saving lives...



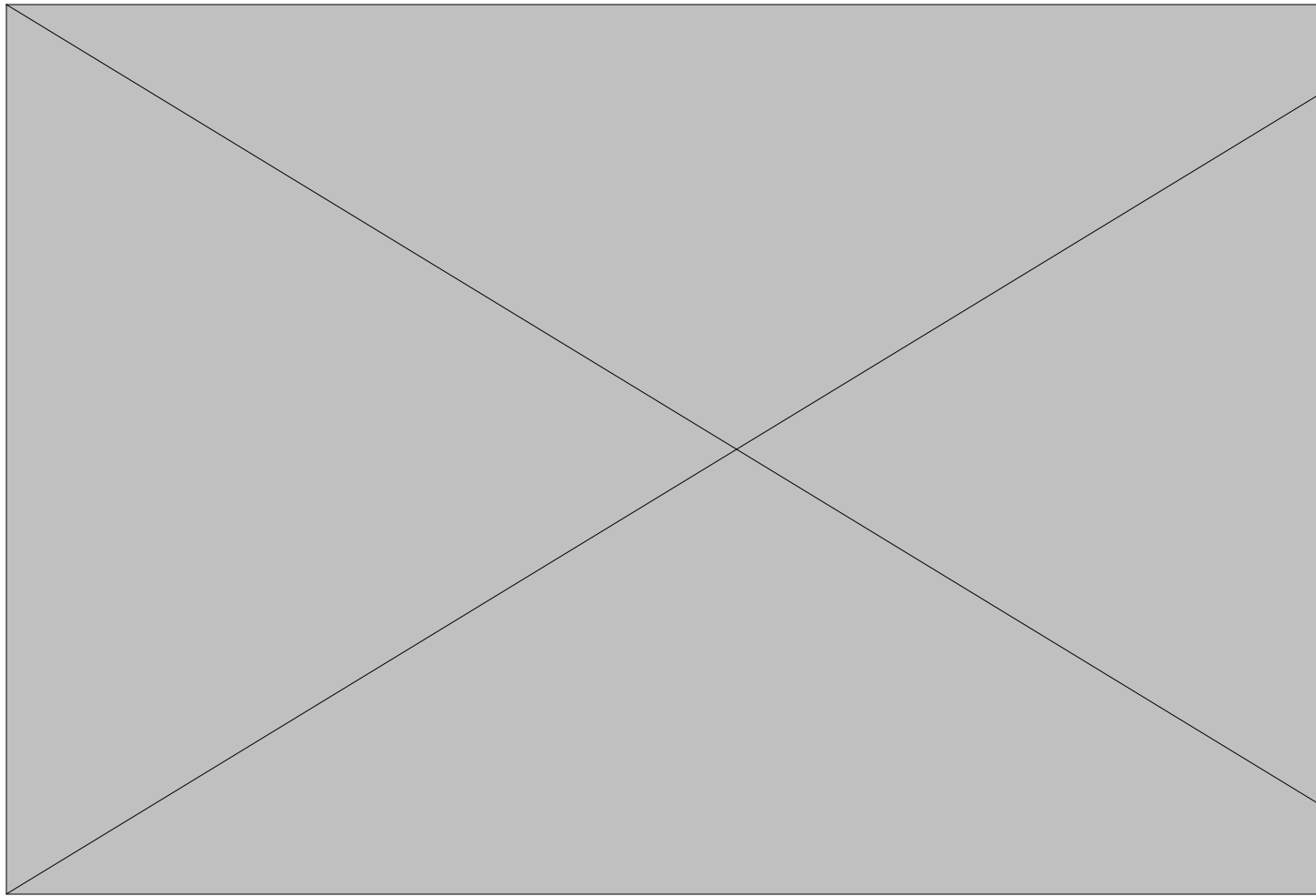
Date: July 26, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

North Dakota Indian Affairs Law Enforcement Officers Honored by Trump Administration

Secretary Zinke hosts tribal round table to address opioid crisis

FARGO, ND - Today, U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke recognized Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) - Turtle Mountain Agency Law Enforcement Officers Stacey Larocque and Michael Slater and BIA-Standing Rock Agency Law Enforcement Officers Wayland Bad Hand and Gary Sandland with the Secretary's Commendation Award for their quick and heroic actions to save the lives of individuals who overdosed on deadly, synthetic opioid drugs.

"Officers Larocque, Slater, Bad Hand, and Sandland are heroes and role models for every one of the Department's 4,000 law enforcement officers," **said Secretary Zinke.** "Thanks to their quick actions and cool heads, they were able to save lives. I'm incredibly proud and honored to have them on our team."



“Teamwork and training saved lives,” **said Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs John Tahsuda.** “Our officers are dedicated to protecting Indian Country every day. I applaud these officers for utilizing their training in an exceptional manner while under pressure to save tribal members from the deadly grips of their opioid overdose. They saved members of Indian Country’s family.”

"On behalf of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, we would like to commend Sergeant Stacy Larocque and Officer Michael Slater on receiving the letters of commendation and the pinning of the Life Saving Ribbons,” **said Chairman Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Jamie S. Azure.** “Our community is proud of all of our law enforcement and grateful for all of our uniformed officers and emergency services who knowingly put their lives on the line to protect others in the line of duty."

Officer Slater arrived at the home on the Turtle Mountain Reservation in New Town, ND, and found a man unconscious and with no pulse. The family at the scene alerted Officer Slater about the suspected overdose. Officer Slater administered CPR until Officer Larocque arrived to administer Naloxone, commonly referred to as Narcan. The man gained consciousness after three doses and within minutes was responsive to the first responders.

The Secretary recognized Sergeant Larocque and Officer Slater during a roundtable meeting with North Dakota's five Tribes. The conversation focused on issues each tribe faces with the opioid crisis and included options and opportunities to help the communities.

Officer Bad Hand responded to a reported assault of a female on the Standing Rock Reservation. Upon arriving at a residence, Officer Bad Hand found the unresponsive woman exhibiting signs of an opioid overdose. Officer Gary Sandland arrived at the scene and retrieved the Narcan, a dose in the form of a nasal spray, from the Officer Bad Hand's patrol car. The woman regained consciousness after the medication was administered by Officer Bad Hand. Officer Sandland continued to assist by holding the IV bag of Narcan that the responding Standing Rock EMS had inserted in the distressed woman's arm.

The Secretary's recognition of Officers Larocque, Slater, Bad Hand, and Sandland was followed by a roundtable meeting with the Tribes from North Dakota – Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate, Spirit Lake, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, The Three Affiliated Tribes, and Turtle Mountain of Chippewa. The conversation focused on issues each Tribe faces with the opioid crisis and included options and opportunities to help the communities.

"President Trump has made it clear that ending the opioid crisis is a top priority, and I'm honored to have the government-to-government relationship with North Dakota's tribal nations," **said Secretary Zinke**. "For too many, opioids have torn the fabric of the community apart, leaving children orphaned or in dangerous situations. Under President Trump's leadership, the federal government is partnering with tribes to identify and prioritize community-based recovery solutions. This would both help victims return to health and also keep our children safe and close to home."

"This Round Table has provided another opportunity to advance the essential dialogue that includes Tribal communities in the national opioid crisis," **said Chairwoman Myra Pearson of the Spirit Lake Tribe**. "The opioid epidemic is another silent threat to our families and it is one that all tribal communities should all be aware of. Proper storage and disposal of medication are effective ways to protect against potential abuse. I encourage everyone to learn the identify the signs of opioid abuse, the signs of an opioid overdose and how to respond to an overdose until trained first responders arrive. Together, we can help save a lives."

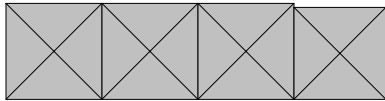
"I extend my deepest gratitude to Secretary Zinke for spotlighting this important issue and meeting with the North Dakota tribal leaders," **said Chairman Mark Fox of the Three Affiliated Tribes**. "For the health and wellness of Indian Country, we must continue to work together on developing and implementing strategies to overcome the threats posed by the nationwide opioid crisis. I am committed to continuing the open dialogue started at the Round Table with the Administration to stop the encroachment of this epidemic in its tracks."

Earlier in the year, Secretary Zinke established the first of its kind law enforcement Joint Task Force (JTF) on opioids. The JTF brings together officers from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, state and local law enforcement, and Tribal law enforcement. The JTF conducts investigations and sting operations on Reservations at the request of Tribal leadership.

At the beginning of the year, Secretary Zinke held a series of tribal community visits on the Opioid Crisis in Indian Country — Tohono O’odham, Gila River, Salt River, and AK-Chin in Arizona; Oneida in Wisconsin; Spokane, Colville, and Lummi Nations in Washington State. The Interior’s Joint Task Force was established by Secretary Zinke to help achieve President Donald Trump's mission to end the opioid epidemic. The Secretary has publicly praised operations led by the new Interior Joint Task Force that resulted in the seizure of \$2.5 Million worth of Meth and \$22,000 in Marijuana, Heroin and Other Narcotics near Pueblo lands in New Mexico; and a opioid bust around tribal lands in Arizona that seized 9,050 Fentanyl pills, 48.2 pounds of methamphetamine, 1.2 pounds of heroin, 863 pounds of marijuana, one-half pound of cocaine, and \$30,000 in cash.

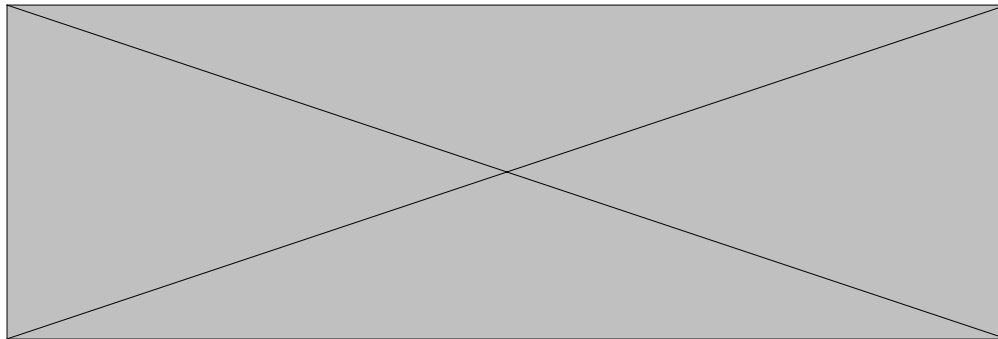
A Memorandum of Agreement between the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Indian Health Service supports training for BIA Law Enforcement in administering Narcan, a naloxone nasal spray. Officer Jonathan Vigil was the first BIA Officer to successfully use Narcan while on duty on August 2, 2016.

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From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-07-31T12:05:29-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Governor Matt Mead Work Together to Conserve Big Game Migration Corridor in Southwest Wyoming
Received: 2018-07-31T12:06:08-04:00

Better public land management and allowing for multiple use, in coordination with states and local communities, will enable wildlife to thrive and local economies to grow...



Date: July 31, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Governor Matt Mead Work Together to Conserve Big Game Migration Corridor in Southwest Wyoming

WASHINGTON – U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke and Wyoming Governor Matt Mead today announced the Department will prioritize the conservation of a mule deer migration corridor in southwest Wyoming through both deferred lease sales and lease stipulations. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will defer nearly 5,000 surface acres from potential oil and gas developments that intersect the designated Red Desert to Hoback big game migration corridor in southwest Wyoming. Additionally, a special lease notice will be attached to the remaining parcels.

”Some North American big game travel over a hundred miles on their migration routes every year, and more often than not, those routes traverse Federal, State, and private lands. This is why it’s important that the Federal government work with the State to adjust management and development plans where necessary if they overlap migratory corridors or winter range,” **said Secretary Ryan Zinke**. “By combining lease deferrals, and lease stipulations, we can achieve the right balance on Federal lands. Thanks to innovations in technology, many times resource development can be done with little to no surface occupancy. Balancing the conservation of habitat and the responsible development of resources ensures the best outcome for the people and wildlife that rely on our Federal lands. I’m thankful to Governor Mead for his commitment to my vision for protecting big game corridors and multiple use of Federal lands.”

"I thank Secretary Zinke for working with me and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to defer these parcels and to develop a special notice to companies leasing the remaining parcels that intersect the migration corridor," **Governor Matt Mead of Wyoming said.** "This decision gives the public and those involved in the Rock Springs Resource Management Plan Revision time to work on steps that balance wildlife needs with energy development needs. Wyoming will continue to work with the Department of the Interior to strike that balance."

Secretarial Order 3362 calls for the improvement of habitat quality in western big game migration corridors and working in complete collaboration with the states. Consistent with that Secretarial Order, WGFD worked with the BLM to defer lands in which at least 90 percent of the parcel is located within an identified big game corridor, in this case the Sublette mule deer herd corridor. Three parcels nominated for the September 2018 oil and gas lease sale in Wyoming fit the 90 percent criteria and will be deferred from oil and gas leasing until the BLM completes its Rock Springs Resource Management Plan Revision next year. For the remaining parcels intersecting the migration corridor a special lease notice was developed:

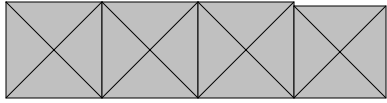
Special Lease Notice: This parcel is located within a big game migration corridor designated or currently under review by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. The lessee or their designated operator will be required to work with the BLM and Wyoming Game and Fish Department to take reasonable measures (see 43 CFR 3101.1-2) to avoid and minimize impacts to maintain big game migration corridor functionality, such as those contained within the "Wyoming Game and Fish Commission Ungulate Migration Corridor Strategy" (February 2016). The BLM will encourage the use of Master Development Plans for operations proposed on this lease parcel in accordance with Onshore Oil and Gas Order No. 1.

"The mule deer that use this migration corridor contribute significantly to the local economies and to the quality of life in Wyoming. We appreciate working together with the Department of the Interior in the interest of wildlife to conserve this migration," **said Scott Talbott, director of the WGFD.**

BLM will continue to closely coordinate with the State of Wyoming before offering Federal lands for oil and gas lease in big game habitats, including migration corridors. Given technological advances in the oil and gas industry, the agencies believe subsurface resource development can be done without surface impacts to the mule deer migration corridor.

Determining appropriate areas to facilitate responsible energy development on public lands is achievable and important for America's economy and ultimately, its security. Wyoming is one of the top energy producers on public lands in the country and in 2017, generated over \$1.2 billion in mineral revenue alone for the American taxpayer. In addition, hunters contribute millions of dollars to local economies, from their home states to Wyoming, as they travel from across the country to pursue the herds of pronghorn, deer, and elk that roam the state.

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-08-10T16:55:44-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Article of Support For DOI's Re-Organization
Received: 2018-08-10T16:56:16-04:00

E&E News: Ken Salazar: Interior reorg 'makes a lot of sense'
August 10, 2018
Hannah Northey

President Obama's former Interior chief Ken Salazar supports the Trump administration's plan to reorganize the agency he once helmed.

The former senator and attorney general, now an energy lawyer in Colorado, also sees parallels in a reshuffling that Obama once floated.

"Some of the reorganization to me makes a lot of sense because it was a lot of the same kind of things we were trying to push," said Salazar from his office at the law firm WilmerHale in downtown Denver. "President Obama during the State of the Union talked about the need to reorganize, including bringing NOAA over from the Department of Commerce to the Department of Interior."

Today, many see Salazar, 63, as an influential Democrat in Colorado, even after his leadership role in Hillary Clinton's transition team fizzled after she lost the 2016 presidential election. He's also still a bit of a lightning rod on energy and environmental issues, but the bolts are coming from new directions these days.

While helming Interior from 2009 to 2013, Salazar drew fire from the oil and gas industry for canceling scores of leases in Utah, imposing a monthslong moratorium on deepwater exploration following the 2010 BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, overhauling the government's oil and gas program, and barring drilling in the Atlantic Ocean ([Greenwire](#), April 12, 2013).

Salazar also faced backlash from environmentalists for policies that bolstered exploration, including opening the Arctic to drilling, proposing seismic testing in the Atlantic Ocean and withdrawing Endangered Species Act protections for a small lizard that roams the oil-rich Permian Basin.

Since leaving Interior, Salazar has voiced support for the Keystone XL pipeline, defended oil and gas production in the Centennial State and most recently backed candidates in local elections — moves that have drawn attention to his industry ties.

At least one report has linked the former Interior chief to Anadarko Petroleum Corp., which was involved in a natural gas pipeline leak that killed a man and destroyed a home in a Denver suburb ([Energywire](#), Oct. 19, 2017). But WilmerHale has said legal ethics and client confidentiality prevent the firm from publicly identifying its clients without first obtaining their permission.

Last month, Salazar grabbed headlines after [revealing](#) at a luncheon in Denver hosted by the Colorado Petroleum Council that he opposes a Colorado ballot initiative that would set oil and gas wells farther away from schools and homes, as well as a raft of climate lawsuits the industry is facing.

Salazar spoke with E&E News about those remarks, his political future and growing up in Colorado:

What do you think of the proposed Interior reorganization?

I think it's important for government to always look at how it's organized, to see if they can organize better.

We had initiatives within the department, we were establishing landscape conservation cooperatives and trying to manage the last resources of the federal government together in collaboration with private land, so we were looking more on an ecosystem basis, across watersheds, for example.

What's happening now, as I understand the process, is the U.S. Geological Survey is looking at, if you put political boundaries aside, how does it make most sense to organize the management, for example, of wildlife quarters, because they don't follow political boundaries.

I think there is some good rationale for reorganization.

What about moving some agencies' headquarters out West?

On the question of moving BLM out West or other agencies, I think that ought to be on the table, as well.

There's already a significant presence of most of those agencies out here in the West, including in Denver, where most of those agencies have thousands and thousands of employees. So I think it's always good for government to look at how it can do its job better.

What other Interior issues are you watching or concern you?

I've made it a practice not to be critical of my successors. Obama doesn't mention his successor by name. We certainly did things differently, we had a different agenda, we worked on it very hard. We're very proud of the things we did, and history will judge what happens with this administration.

Looking back at the BP oil spill of 2010, do you think separating the Minerals Management Service was the right response?

It was absolutely the right move because we had to de-conflict the missions of that part of the department. We did it in a very thoughtful manner. I think those agencies will stand the test of time, and those were the correct decisions.

How has the energy landscape changed under your watch?

We've gone from coining the term "energy independence" in the 1970s, where we were importing 30 percent of our oil, to 2005 where we were importing 60 percent of our oil. Projections in 2005 at EIA [Energy Information Administration] were that we were going to get to 70 percent.

Yet somehow, between 2005 and 2012, we basically reversed that course of history. I remember having a conversation with President Obama where I said to him that we had achieved energy security in the United States under his watch with the implementation with an "all of the above" strategy.

We're in a very good position on national, economic and environmental security, using much cleaner fuels than we have in the past. Just the usage of natural gas has significantly reduced the level of CO2 emissions.

Are you still "all of the above" given the threat of climate change?

I'm all of the above with the strong statement that we also need to address the issue of climate change.

Did you strike that balance during your time in office?

We tried very hard, that's why we established the climate change centers at many universities around the country, that's why we gave directives that climate change is something we needed to look at in decisionmakings. We tried to do that in our time.

You recently said you oppose climate lawsuits brought by cities and counties against industry. Why's that?

With respect to climate change and legislation, I believe strongly we need a national and international framework. I think the Paris accord was something historic, and I believe Congress should grapple with this issue in a way that develops a workable, single framework for climate change.

Can you achieve a national framework solution through litigation? I don't think you can. That was basically the comment I made. In the end, I don't think those lawsuits are going to bring about the effective solution. It can't be a state solution, it has to be done at the national and international level, as well.

We need a climate change framework for the country.

And you oppose a ballot initiative in Colorado that would require oil and gas wells to be 2,500 feet from buildings

and bodies of water?

The Democratic candidate for governor, the Democratic candidate for attorney general are opposed to it.

A 2,500-foot setback basically takes away 80 percent of the oil and gas resources that is developable within the so-called D-J [Denver-Julesburg] Basin. Because of that, my own legal analysis is that it creates a whole host of legal problems that will result in huge and continuous litigation.

What was it like growing up in the San Luis Valley in Colorado?

I grew up poor, we had eight children in the household. My father and mother were veterans of World War II. My father was a staff sergeant in the Army. My mother had worked at the Pentagon when the War Department was basically moved there during the war. She was there for five years.

We grew up 5 miles outside the nearest town of Manassa that had about 800 people. My nearest neighbor was some 3 miles away. We had no electricity or telephone out at our house.

We were part of a team, the family, doing the work of a farmer and rancher. We started working early, probably from the age of 4 or 5, tending to the farm, herding sheep and cattle.

Did you have any nicknames?

They called me Kenneth growing up, and later on I liked the name Kenny, so I was Kenny for a while. And later in high school I became Ken.

You've ruled out running for governor in Colorado next year. Would you ever run for office again? For president?

(Laughs) I am still young at heart, I still have a lot to do and give, and I don't know how that will manifest itself. The same issues I've cared about all my life, which is civil rights and taking care of our planet, are the same issues that make me excited about another day.

In 1990, I was executive director of the Department of Natural Resources here in Colorado. In my young 30s. I created the Great Outdoors Colorado program, I think it's had an indelible mark on this state already, and I think we could do a lot more of that.

Exactly how I'll fulfill my own commitment to the country I care about, I will decide that in the future at the right time.

Jason Funes

Special Assistant

Intergovernmental and External Affairs

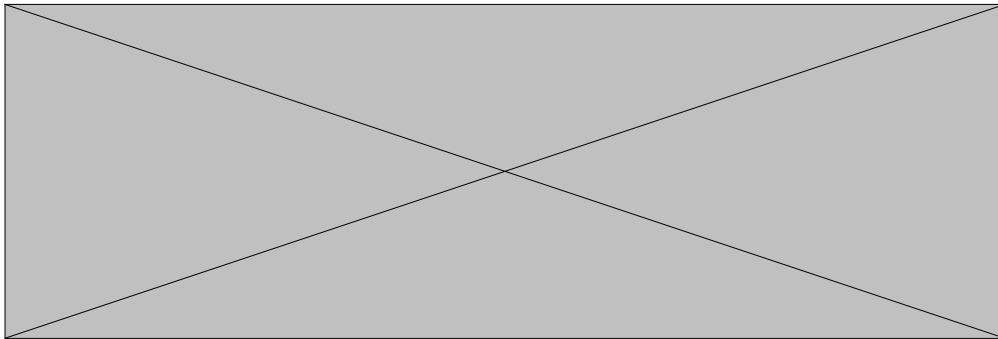
Office of the Secretary

Department of the Interior

Office: (202) 208-5541

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-08-14T11:40:11-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Announces First Ever Joint Federal Record of Decision
Received: 2018-08-14T11:40:50-04:00

The Trump administration and Secretary Zinke continues to prove how to operate a leaner and more efficient federal government... America is open for business!!



Date: August 14, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Announces First Ever Joint Federal Record of Decision

Assistant Secretary Balash and the Bureau of Land Management approve Right-of-Way grant to Donlin Gold, LLC

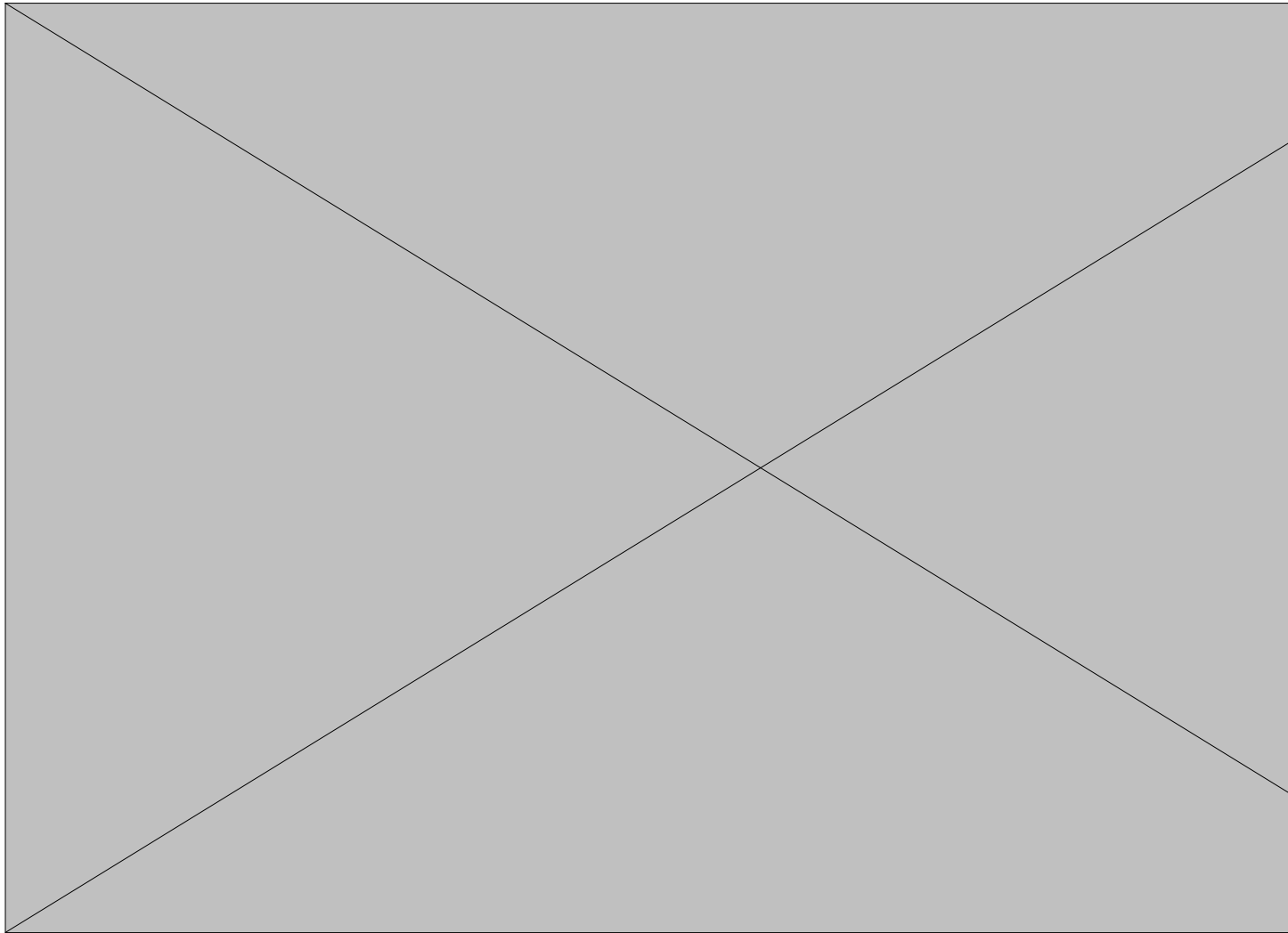
WASHINGTON, D.C. — Yesterday, the Bureau of Land Management offered a Right-of-Way (ROW) grant for the construction of a natural gas pipeline and associated fiber optic cable following the signing of the first ever Joint Federal Record of Decision prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management Joe Balash approving the Donlin Gold, LLC (Donlin) mine site in the Kuskokwim River Valley.

Approval of the Donlin Gold Project comes after a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis and extensive public comment and review periods conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) with 11 cooperating agencies including, the BLM, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Agency (PHMSA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR), federally recognized tribes, and Native villages.

"We are proud to execute on President Trump's vision for One Federal Decision," **said Secretary Ryan Zinke.** "The Donlin Gold Mine project in Alaska is a great example of cooperation between the Corps and BLM. This important project--which includes stipulations for Alaska Native hiring preference--will bring over 3,000 construction jobs and 1,400 operations jobs to the Yukon- Kuskokwim region of Alaska. It will create good paying jobs to a region of

Alaska with historically high unemployment and we look forward to realizing the many opportunities that the mine will bring to the state of Alaska and the American people."

"This joint decision is the first finalized by BLM Alaska since the implementation of the One Federal Decision policy established in Executive Order 13807," **said Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management Joe Balash.** "Timely processing of environmental reviews and authorization decisions for proposed major infrastructure are being achieved as a result of cooperative relationships between Federal agencies."



In order to provide the energy needed to support development of the mine, Donlin will build, operate and maintain a 316-mile, 14-inch diameter natural gas pipeline and associated fiber optic cable from the west side of Cook Inlet to the proposed mine site. The pipeline ROW traverses approximately 96.7 miles and 2,329 acres of BLM-managed lands north and west of the Alaska Range in the Kuskokwim River valley.

"This project supports the administration's priorities by encouraging environmentally responsible resource development," **said Alaska Bureau of Land Management Acting State Director Karen Mouritsen.** "Moreover, it supports our commitment to bring jobs and economic

opportunities to the rural communities of the state of Alaska.”

Donlin anticipates maintaining a high local-hire rate at the project site which will generate up to 3,000 jobs during construction and 800 to 1,400 jobs during operation.

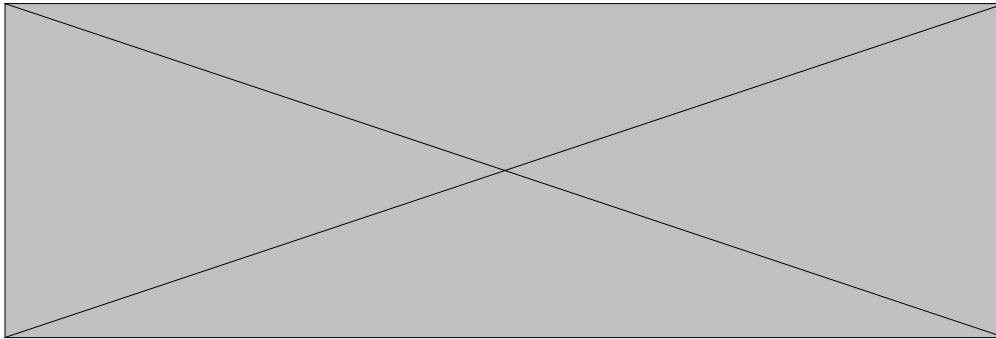
The decision documents are available at blm.gov/Alaska.

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From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-08-15T14:20:05-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Interior Announces Results of Gulf of Mexico Region-Wide Oil and Gas Lease
Received: 2018-08-15T14:20:44-04:00

Another step towards American energy dominance by unleashing responsible energy development offshore!



Date: August 15, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Interior Announces Results of Gulf of Mexico Region-Wide Oil and Gas Lease

Sale Yields \$178 Million in High Bids on 801,288 Acres; Advances the President's America-First Energy Strategy

WASHINGTON, D.C. – In support of President Donald J. Trump's America-First Offshore Energy Strategy, Deputy Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt today announced that region-wide Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale 251 generated \$178,069,406 in high bids for 144 tracts covering 801,288 acres in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico. A total of 29 companies participated in the lease sale, submitting \$202,667,923 in bids.

“Today’s lease sale is yet another step our nation has taken to achieve economic security and energy dominance,” **said Deputy Secretary Bernhardt**. “The results from the lease sale will help secure well-paying offshore jobs for rig and platform workers, support staff onshore, and related industry jobs, while generating much-needed revenue to fund everything from conservation to infrastructure.”

Lease Sale 251, livestreamed from New Orleans, was the third offshore sale held under the 2017-2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program (2017-2022 OCS Program). Under this program, 10 region-wide lease sales are scheduled for the Gulf, where resource potential and industry interest are high, and oil and gas infrastructure is well established. Two Gulf lease sales will be held each year and include all available blocks in the combined Western, Central, and Eastern Gulf of Mexico Planning Areas.

“The Gulf of Mexico is a long established oil and gas province and many of the blocks offered at today’s sale have been offered many times before,” **said Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Kate MacGregor.** “Today’s results demonstrate a steady interest as serious innovation and engineering continues to unlock new energy resources deep below the seabed.”

In January, Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke announced a draft proposed program for a new National OCS Program for years 2019-2024. The 60-day public comment period for the draft ended on March 9. After considering all public comments received in response, BOEM will develop and publish a proposed program for public comment later this year, followed by the proposed final program expected in 2019.

BOEM will continue to implement the 2017-2022 OCS Program until the new National OCS Program is approved.

Lease Sale 251 included 14,622 unleased blocks, located from three to 231 miles offshore, in the Gulf’s Western, Central and Eastern Planning Areas in water depths ranging from nine to more than 11,115 feet (three to 3,400 meters). Excluded from the lease sale are: (1) blocks subject to the congressional moratorium established by the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006; (2) blocks that are adjacent to or beyond the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone in the area known as the northern portion of the Eastern Gap; and (3) whole blocks and partial blocks within the boundaries of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary.

“BOEM continues to advance responsible offshore energy development, while protecting the environment,” **said Acting BOEM Director Walter Cruickshank.** “This lease sale represents another step forward in the Administration’s comprehensive effort to secure our Nation’s energy future.”

Revenues received from OCS leases (including high bids, rental payments and royalty payments) are directed to the U.S. Treasury, certain Gulf Coast states (Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama), the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and Historic Preservation Fund.

Leases resulting from this sale will include stipulations to protect biologically sensitive resources, mitigate potential adverse effects on protected species, and avoid potential conflicts associated with oil and gas development in the region.

In addition, BOEM has included appropriate fiscal terms that take into account market conditions and ensure taxpayers receive a fair return for use of the OCS. In recognition of current hydrocarbon price conditions and the marginal nature of remaining Gulf of Mexico shallow water resources, these terms include a 12.5 percent royalty rate for leases in less than 200 meters of water depth, and a royalty rate of 18.75 percent for all other leases issued under the sale.

All terms and conditions for Gulf of Mexico Region-wide Sale 251 were detailed in the Final Notice of Sale information package, which is available at: <http://www.boem.gov/Sale-251/>.

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From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-08-29T10:43:57-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Yuge Announcement Regarding DOI **Reorganization** - Draining the Swamp
Received: 2018-08-29T10:44:37-04:00
[12 Unified Regions \(Final Map\).pdf](#)

Esteemed Good Governance Colleagues,

I wanted to provide you with an update on the work we're doing to modernize and reorganize the Department of Interior (DOI).

Secretary Zinke's vision for reorganization is to improve overall operations, internal communication, service to the American public, and stakeholder engagement. Aligning geographic jurisdictions across the Department will enhance coordination of resources and will simplify how the American public engages with DOI - particularly within the realm of recreation, conservation, and federal permitting.

As you may recall, DOI has been working on reorganization since last year. In January of 2018, DOI launched a major step in the reorganization effort by hosting meetings and calls with Governors, local governments and external stakeholders to discuss a draft map of the Unified Regional Boundaries concept. In addition to connecting with our intergovernmental and external partners, we invited our career Senior Executive Service (SES) employees from all over the country to a series of meetings in Washington, D.C. to collaborate on the concept.

Since those initial discussions and the hundreds of meetings across the country with intergovernmental partners and external stakeholders, we have established a final version of DOI's twelve new Unified Regions for all of Interior's Bureaus except for those which fall under the leadership of the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs. The new Unified Regions are displayed in the attached map.

In the coming weeks, we will take actions to align DOI into the twelve unified regional boundaries. Bureau regional boundaries will transition from their current regional structures to participate in the new twelve unified regional boundaries. We are not reprogramming funds or making other specific organizational changes in the bureaus at this time. The Department does not anticipate mission, budget, or personnel impacts as the twelve new unified regions stand up virtually and begin operation.

These new Unified Regional Boundaries provide the framework for a new way of doing business. As we move forward, with your support, our new Unified Regions will allow important decisions to be made closer to where our stakeholders and intergovernmental partners live and work, and will greatly simplify our operations, and improve the services we provide.

Here are the next most immediate steps in this process:

- Create Regional Leadership Teams composed of SES employees from each Bureau in each Unified Region.
- The SES Leadership Team of each Unified Region will identify a Regional Facilitator.

The Regional Facilitator is tasked with collectively organizing activities of the Unified

region on six specific areas: collaborative conservation, recreation, permitting, acquisition, human resource management, and information technology management.

- Regional Leadership Teams will then identify key personnel and create six individual teams to work on the six areas of focus in each region. Tasks to be addressed by the Regional Facilitator and specific deliverables will be developed during this period.
- The Regional Facilitators and the Regional Leadership Teams will identify the “as is” and “future state” operations for their Unified Region.
- The Regional Facilitators and the Regional Leadership Teams will also develop an options paper to be used in selecting the Interior Regional Director (IRD) and in establishing an IRD rotation process. The IRD duties for each Unified Region will be similar, but geographic areas of the country will require slightly different skills and experience depending on the priority issues for that Unified Region.

Here is a [link](#) to the new FAQ that has been updated to include more information about the twelve unified regions and the role of the Interior Regional Directors. Here is a [link](#) to where you can find more information on this effort including the final Unified Regional Boundary Map.

Also, today we are sending two letters updating DOI staff of the changes. One letter will be sent to all DOI employees and one specifically to our Senior Executive Service employees who have played an integral role in the development of the reorganization.

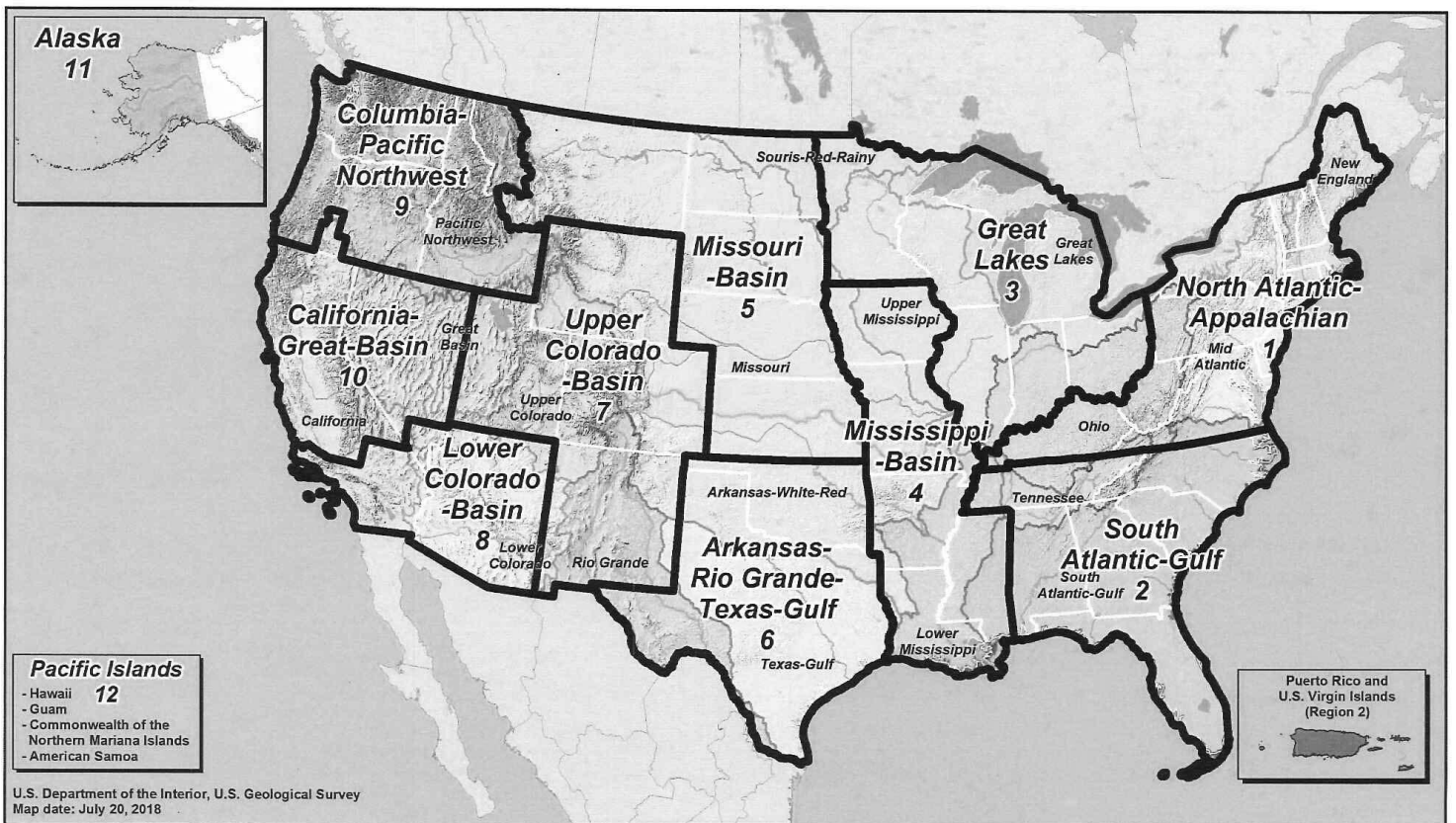
We value your input and feedback as we continue with this process. Please continue to send us ideas, thoughts, and concerns. Also, if you would like to set up a conference call or meeting to discuss in further detail, I am happy to help facilitate.

We look forward to receiving your support, as American tax payer nationwide will receive the greatest benefit to modernizing the Federal Government. Thanks to President and Secretary Zinke, draining the swamp isn't just a mantra, it's becoming reality!

Best Wishes,

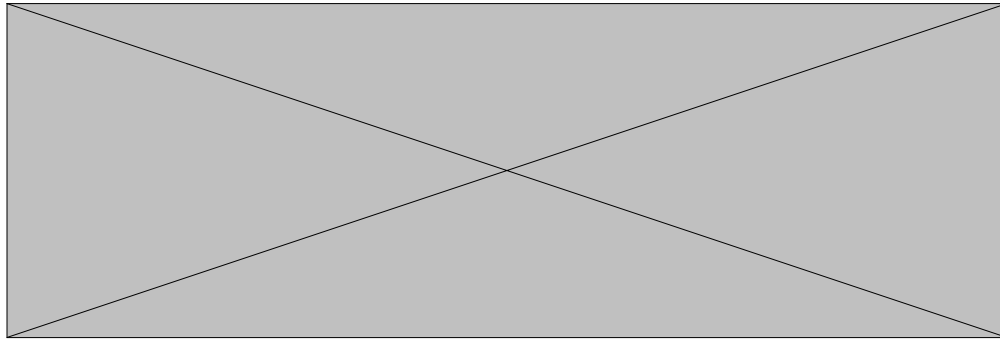
Jason Funes
Special Assistant
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5541
Cell: (202) 897-7189

12 Unified Regions Based on Watersheds



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-08-31T15:56:13-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Secretary Zinke Applauds Nomination of David Vela for National Park Service Director
Received: 2018-08-31T15:56:58-04:00

Another key step towards making our National Parks great again!



Date: August 31, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Applauds Nomination of David Vela for National Park Service Director

Vela would be the first Hispanic American to hold the position

WASHINGTON – Today, President Donald J. Trump announced the nomination of Grand Teton National Park Superintendent David Vela to serve as the director of the National Park Service. A seasoned National Park Service leader, Mr. Vela has served at every level of the organization with distinction throughout his career. U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke applauded the President's choice today.

“David Vela has demonstrated all of the ideals that the National Park Service stands for, and his long track record of leadership on behalf of the people and places of the National Park Service distinguish him as the right man for the job,” **said Secretary Zinke**. “Our extraordinary national parks will be in the best of hands with David at the helm.”

“I am deeply humbled by the President's nomination to serve as the 19th Director of the National Park Service, and if confirmed, I look forward to working with Secretary Zinke to address the NPS maintenance backlog, protect our national treasures, and serve all who come to enjoy the parks,” **said Mr. Vela**. “Having worn the uniform of the National Park Service for more than 28 years, I greatly value all that it represents and the importance of ensuring that we build a next generation workforce that is ready to take on the challenges and opportunities facing our agency.”

“I'm pleased the President has nominated Mr. Vela to be Director of the National Park Service,” **said Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee Chairman Lisa Murkowski**. “As we

seek to improve the culture of the agency and address its multi-billion dollar maintenance backlog, I look forward to meeting him and scheduling a hearing on his nomination in the near future.”

“David Vela will bring stability and quality leadership to the NPS,” **said House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop.** “Addressing the maintenance backlog in our parks is long overdue, and Vela’s years of service in parks around the country will bring fresh advocacy to this continued effort. President Trump made a superb decision in picking Vela to lead the NPS. I look forward to working with him to further this important work.”

“Few people have the knowledge, passion and appreciation for our amazing national parks as David Vela,” **said Wyoming Governor Matt Mead.** “He has been a good partner to Wyoming and an effective leader at Grand Teton National Park. I am excited to see his name move forward. National Parks will be in great hands with David at the helm.”

“David Vela understands the challenges facing our national parks and the power of working with partners to address them,” **stated Will Shafroth, President and CEO of the National Park Foundation.** “His strong, inclusive and deft leadership will effectively serve these places where Americans come together to appreciate our sacred landscapes and shared history.”

"David's devotion to public service, commitment to building a diverse and inclusive workforce, and passion in achieving the mission of the National Park Service is to be commended. The agency would be well served in having him as the 19th Director of the National Park Service," **said Bob Stanton, 15th Director of the National Park Service.**

"As grand as the Tetons, the history-making choice of David Vela to become Director of the National Park Service is a nationally unifying one, which all Americans can praise," **said Larry Rockefeller, grandson of John D. Rockefeller, Jr, and son of Laurance S. Rockefeller.** "In that spirit, I sense the delight of my late grandfather, John D. Rockefeller, Jr, and father, Laurance S. Rockefeller, that our extraordinary national parks legacy will be upheld by Director Vela, for all present and future generations."

"Over the past five years, while he has served as superintendent of Grand Teton National Park, David Vela has been a wonderful partner," **said Leslie Mattson, President of the Grand Teton National Park Foundation.** "We have a model public/private partnership and have worked together to execute many important projects in Grand Teton. He is an extraordinary leader whose passion and commitment will ensure his success as the next director of the National Park Service."

Mr. Vela has served as the superintendent of Grand Teton National Park & the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway since 2014. Prior to his current post, Vela served as associate director for Workforce, Relevancy and Inclusion in the NPS Washington headquarters offices. He also served for over four years as the NPS Southeast Regional Director and as superintendent of Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site, Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park, and the George Washington Memorial Parkway.

###

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-09-06T14:29:10-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Endangered Species Act Event at The Heritage Foundation 9/10/18 - Featuring Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt
Received: 2018-09-06T14:29:46-04:00

Esteemed Colleagues,

As this Administration works to improve the implementation of the Endangered Species Act, the U.S Deputy Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt, will be speaking at The Heritage Foundation from 12pm - 1pm on Monday September 10th.

Please click the link below and RSVP to learn more about how this Administration's proposed changes to the ESA will benefit wildlife, local economies, empower states and local communities, and better respect private property rights.

<https://www.heritage.org/event/improving-the-implementation-the-endangered-species-act>

There will also be an opportunity to ask questions of the Deputy Secretary at the end of the event. Learn all you need to know before the comment period to this event closes on September 24th.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Jason Funes

Special Assistant

Intergovernmental and External Affairs

Office of the Secretary

Department of the Interior

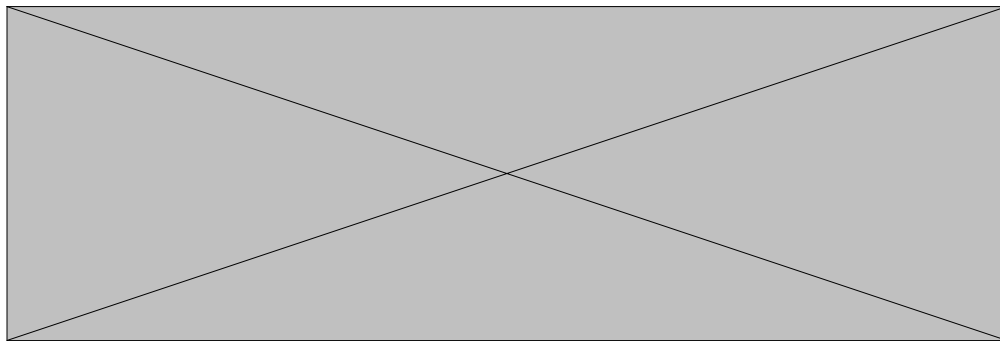
Office: (202) 208-5541

Cell: (202) 897-7189

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-09-07T09:34:56-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: **Trump/Zinke Record Breaking Energy Sale** They Said It Couldn't Be Done: Trump Admin Dominates with Billion-dollar Oil and Gas Sale
Received: 2018-09-07T09:35:44-04:00

The Department of Interior Energy strikes again!!

The road to energy dominance is through Zinke's DOI; and this is what winning looks like!



Date: September 6, 2018

Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

They Said It Couldn't Be Done: Trump Admin Dominates with Billion-dollar Oil and Gas Sale

WASHINGTON – In a testament to the Trump Administration's America First Energy Plan, the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) third-quarter oil and gas lease sale in New Mexico broke all previous records by grossing nearly \$1 billion in bonus bids for 142 parcels. The two-day sale brought in more revenue than all BLM oil and gas sales in 2017 combined, and surpassed BLM's previous best sales year. Revenue from the sale totaled \$972,483,619.50 and illustrates the Trump Administration's commitment to sustainably developing America's energy and natural resources to achieve American energy dominance.

"Critics of the Administration's American Energy Dominance policy often falsely claim there is little to no interest in Federal oil and gas leases. Today, they are eating their words and once again President Trump's policies are bearing fruit for the American people. The people of New Mexico will see about a half a billion dollars of this right back into their roads, schools, and public services," **said Secretary Zinke**. "This historic lease sale shows what is possible when we leverage the vast natural resources we have in our country, using innovation, best science, and best practices. We can ensure reliable, safe, abundant, and affordable

energy for all Americans, and New Mexico is a centerpiece of our all-of-the-above energy future. I applaud the President for his leadership on this issue and look forward to continuing the success."

"The results of this sale show the success that comes with sound energy policy that seeks to use working public lands to ensure reliable energy sources and job growth opportunities," **said BLM Deputy Director for Policy and Programs Brian Steed.** "The Administration remains committed to an era of American energy independence through our multiple-use mission that ensures opportunities for commercial, recreational, and conservation activities on healthy and productive public lands."

The two-day, online sale of parcels in the Carlsbad Field Office, located in southeastern New Mexico, easily outpaced what used to be the BLM's largest sales year ever in 2008, which generated \$408,631,537. Illustrating the robustness of the sale, 71 parcels (28,036 acres) were sold on day one, for total receipts of almost \$386 million – more revenue than all BLM oil and gas leases sales combined in 2017, which was approximately \$358 million.

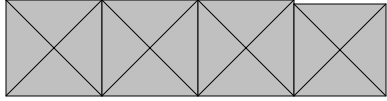
In addition to the record total bonus bids, the first day of the sale also resulted in a national record for the highest bid for a single parcel, and the highest per-acre bid ever placed. The winning bid for a 1,240-acre parcel in Eddy County was \$81,889 per acre, bringing in more than \$101.5 million. The previous record for a single parcel was \$76,680,000, set in September 2016 in New Mexico. The previous record for a per-acre bid was \$40,001 set in New Mexico in December 2017.

Forty-eight percent of the revenue from lease sales goes to the state where the oil and gas activity is occurring, while the rest goes to the U.S. Treasury. If the leases result in producing oil or gas wells, revenue from royalties based on production are also shared with the state.

A bonus bid is a one-time payment in exchange for exclusive access to explore a parcel and grants an exclusive lease for a set period of time. The BLM awards oil and gas leases for a term of 10 years and as long thereafter as there is production of oil and gas in paying quantities.

The BLM is a key contributor to the Trump Administration's America-First Energy Plan, which is an all-of-the-above plan that includes oil and gas, coal, strategic minerals, and renewable sources such as wind, geothermal, and solar – all of which can be developed on public lands.

###



****Trump/Zinke Record Breaking Energy Sale****

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-09-12T18:27:53-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Sue and Settle Secretarial Order **Swamp Drained By 1 Foot**
Received: 2018-09-12T18:28:54-04:00

Esteemed Tax Payer,

On Friday September 7, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke signed a Secretarial Order to prevent the practice known as “sue and settle” by promoting public engagement, transparency, and accountability in Consent Decrees and Settlement Agreements.

Over the past five years, the Department of Interior (DOI) has been party to a staggering number of settlement agreements and consent decrees, often with no input from or even notice to the American people, leaving the door open for potential abuse.

Between January 1, 2012, and January 19, 2017, DOI agreed to enter into over 460 settlement agreements and consent decrees (an average of over 90 per year) and agreed to pay over \$4.4 billion in monetary awards. From January 1, 2016 through January 19, 2017 alone, DOI entered into approximately 96 settlement agreements or consent decrees, agreeing to pay over \$1.7 billion in monetary awards. This high number of settlement agreements and consent decrees and accompanying tab has sparked concerns that taxpayer dollars and DOI’s regulatory agenda are being handed off to special interest groups, contrary to the wishes of Congress and the American voters.

Secretarial Order 3368 is intended to alleviate concerns the litigation process has been used to undermine the procedural safeguards Congress put in place by giving the America people a window into where the money is going and a voice before DOI makes a recommendation to accept or enter into a settlement with large policy or budgetary implications.

Main points of the Secretarial Order (See link below for more detail):

- Within 30 days, DOI will establish a publicly accessible “Litigation” webpage that is prominently linked from the Office of the Solicitor’s homepage.
- Within 90 days, DOI will post a searchable list of final judicial and administrative consent decrees and settlement agreements that continue to govern Departmental actions, including a brief summary of each decree or agreement, a note of any attorney’s fees or costs paid, and a link to the text of the decree or agreement.
- Any proposed consent decree or settlement agreement that commits DOI to seek a particular appropriation or budget authorization from Congress or formally reprogram appropriated funds, and/or places obligations on the Department that extend beyond five years at the top of the Litigation page, publish notice of the proposed consent decree or settlement agreement in the Federal Register, and provide a public comment period of at least 30 days.

- DOI, including any agency or bureau thereof, will not recommend that the Department of Justice enter into a consent decree or settlement agreement that:
 - Converts into a mandatory duty the otherwise discretionary authority of the Secretary and/or his designees (including bureau and office heads) to revise, amend, or promulgate regulations.
 - Commits DOI or any of its bureaus and offices thereof to expend funds that Congress has not appropriated and that have not been budgeted for the action in question.
 - Requires DOI or any subdivision thereof to pay attorney's fees and costs unless the plaintiff or petitioner has established a strong likelihood of obtaining such fees under the law.
 - Prohibits public disclosure of any consent decree or settlement agreement, except to the extent necessary to protect proprietary information, such as trade secrets, or otherwise mandated by law.

[Here](#) is a link to SO 3368.

Please call with any questions.

Jason Funes
Special Assistant
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5541
Cell: (202) 897-7189

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-09-18T08:51:06-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Briefing Call TODAY Regarding BLM's Waste Prevention Rule (Methane Rule) **RSVP Required**
Received: 2018-09-18T08:51:42-04:00

Good Morning,

Today (Tuesday, September 18), the U.S. Department of Interior's Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs will be hosting an informational conference call with stakeholders and external groups regarding the Bureau of Land Management's Upcoming Waste Prevention Rule.

The Department of Interior will announce the decision late Tuesday afternoon, September 18th. You are some of our most important partners, so we invite you to participate in the briefing call with U.S. Department of the Interior officials to share the details of the decision and provide you the opportunity to ask questions before the announcement later in the afternoon. This decision may affect your state/company/group so I urge you to participate on the call.

Date: Tuesday, September 18, 2018

When: 3:30 pm EDT

What: BLM Waste Prevention Rule announcement

Who: U.S. Department of Interior officials

How: RSVP via link below and you will receive call-in information 30 minutes before call time

Please RSVP at this [LINK](#).

Jason Funes

Special Assistant

Intergovernmental and External Affairs

Office of the Secretary

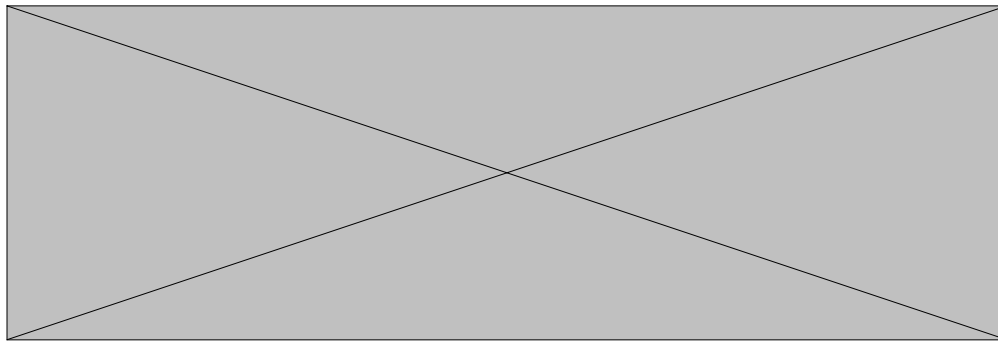
Department of the Interior

Office: (202) 208-5541

Cell: (202) 897-7189

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-09-18T16:59:18-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Secretary Zinke Announces \$100 Million to Support State Parks and Outdoor Recreation
*LWCF Funds Announced**
Received: 2018-09-18T16:59:58-04:00

Another way American Energy dominance helps support conservation projects, recreational opportunities, and improves access to federal lands...



Date: September 18, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Announces \$100 Million to Support State Parks and Outdoor Recreation

WASHINGTON – Secretary of the Interior Ryan K. Zinke today announced a \$100 million distribution from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) to all 50 States, the Territories, and the District of Columbia for state-identified outdoor recreation and conservation projects. LWCF funds are non-taxpayer dollars derived from Outer Continental Shelf lease revenues and are awarded through federal matching grants administered by the National Park Service.

Secretary Zinke said, “The LWCF State and Local Assistance Program leverages public and private investment in America’s State and local parks and exemplifies my priorities to improve and expand outdoor recreation and access, and bolster state and local community recreation, tourism, and economic goals. I support permanent reauthorization of LWCF and am hopeful that Congress will pass this important bill before the deadline.”

Secretary Zinke made the announcement at Acadiana Park in Lafayette, Louisiana. “In the last 53 years,” **Zinke said,** “the Land and Water Conservation Fund and its State and Local Assistance Program has provided over \$4.2 billion to help states protect special places and bring outdoor recreation opportunities to local communities across the country.”

Lafayette Mayor-President Joel Robideaux said, “On behalf of Lafayette and the Acadiana

Park Nature Station, we are grateful for the support of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Louisiana has long been known as the Sportsman's Paradise and this program is incredibly important in helping to preserve our unique landscapes while also connecting citizens with the outdoors through recreation."

The \$100 million in LWCF funding distributed today was supplemented by the June distribution of \$61.6 million in revenues to states from the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act. "Together these funds create major positive impacts for millions of Americans who have nearby opportunities for recreation in new and improved community parks and recreation areas," Secretary Zinke said.

The LWCF was established by Congress in 1965 to ensure access to outdoor recreation resources for present and future generations. The LWCF invests earnings from offshore oil and gas leasing to permanently conserve outdoor recreation areas for public use and enjoyment. The funds enable state and local governments to improve park and other recreation areas in their communities by rehabilitating and upgrading existing parks, creating brand new parks in places that have none, and developing and expanding trail systems that link communities to each other and to additional outdoor recreation opportunities.

Since the inception of the LWCF, over \$4.2 billion from responsible offshore oil and gas development has been made available to state and local governments to fund more than 43,000 conservation projects throughout the nation. The allocation for the State and Local Assistance Program is determined by a formula set in the LWCF Act. For more information, please visit www.nps.gov/lwcf.

Fiscal Year 2018 LWCF Apportionments by State:

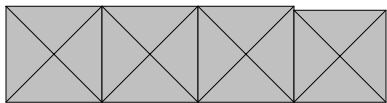
State	Total
Alabama	\$1,575,379
Alaska	\$907,707
Arizona	\$2,074,129
Arkansas	\$1,257,021
California	\$8,527,497
Colorado	\$1,777,444
Connecticut	\$1,497,856

Delaware	\$958,608
Florida	\$4,608,137
Georgia	\$2,570,741
Hawaii	\$1,062,199
Idaho	\$1,065,085
Illinois	\$3,353,349
Indiana	\$1,959,895
Iowa	\$1,306,393
Kansas	\$1,307,516
Kentucky	\$1,499,138
Louisiana	\$1,610,231
Maine	\$972,249
Maryland	\$1,931,542
Massachusetts	\$2,122,220
Michigan	\$2,601,068
Minnesota	\$1,751,154
Mississippi	\$1,241,508
Missouri	\$1,855,995
Montana	\$944,398

Nebraska	\$1,116,936
Nevada	\$1,343,209
New Hampshire	\$1,004,160
New Jersey	\$2,608,866
New Mexico	\$1,169,763
New York	\$4,650,277
North Carolina	\$2,441,739
North Dakota	\$896,313
Ohio	\$2,950,544
Oklahoma	\$1,437,051
Oregon	\$1,517,718
Pennsylvania	\$3,180,438
Rhode Island	\$997,854
South Carolina	\$1,589,578
South Dakota	\$916,774
Tennessee	\$1,889,644
Texas	\$5,706,801
Utah	\$1,344,543
Vermont	\$873,017

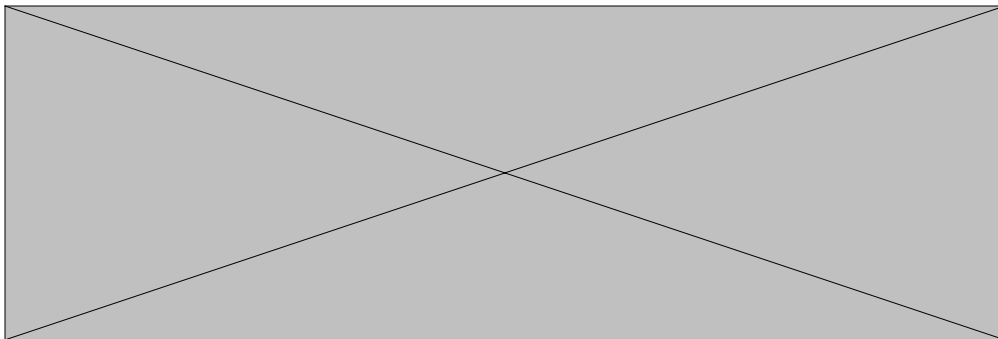
Virginia	\$2,263,381
Washington	\$2,095,549
West Virginia	\$1,068,456
Wisconsin	\$1,800,071
Wyoming	\$881,398
District of Columbia	\$229,413
Puerto Rico	\$1,388,048
Virgin Islands	\$75,000
Guam	\$75,000
American Samoa	\$75,000
Northern Marianas	\$75,000

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-09-25T14:01:31-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Interior Proposes Region-Wide Oil and Gas Lease Sale for Gulf of Mexico
Received: 2018-09-25T14:08:32-04:00

As America has recently become the largest oil producer in the world, we aren't tired of winning yet. More investment/production in the U.S energy market means more jobs being created and greater stability in energy costs for all Americans...



Date: September 25, 2018
Contacts: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov
John Filostrat (BOEM) 504-731-7815
john.filostrat@boem.gov

Interior Proposes Region-Wide Oil and Gas Lease Sale for Gulf of Mexico

Proposed Notice of Sale Outlines All Available Areas in Federal Waters

WASHINGTON – In support of President Donald J. Trump’s America-First Offshore Energy Strategy, Deputy Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt and Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Acting Director Walter Cruickshank today announced that BOEM proposes to offer 78 million acres for a region-wide lease sale scheduled for March 2019. The sale would include all available unleased areas in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

“The development of our offshore energy resources is a major pillar of this Administration’s energy strategy,” **said Deputy Secretary Bernhardt**. “We all benefit from a strong offshore energy program, which provides thousands of well-paying jobs, as well as affordable and reliable energy Americans need to heat homes, fuel our cars, and power our economy.”

Lease Sale 252, scheduled to be livestreamed from New Orleans, will be the fourth offshore sale under the [2017-2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program](#) (2017-2022 OCS Program). Under this program, ten region-wide lease sales are scheduled for the Gulf, where resource potential and industry interest are high, and oil and gas infrastructure is well established. Two Gulf lease sales will be held each year and include all available blocks in the combined Western, Central, and Eastern Gulf of Mexico Planning Areas.

In January, Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke announced a draft proposed program for a new National OCS Program for years 2019-2024. The 60-day public comment period for the draft ended on March 9. After considering all public comments received in response, BOEM will develop and publish a proposed program for public comment later this year, followed by the proposed final program expected in 2019.

BOEM will continue to implement the 2017-2022 OCS Program until the new National OCS Program is approved.

Lease Sale 252 will include approximately 14,696 unleased blocks, located from three to 231 miles offshore, in the Gulf's Western, Central and Eastern planning areas in water depths ranging from nine to more than 11,115 feet (three to 3,400 meters). Excluded from the lease sale are: blocks subject to the congressional moratorium established by the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006; blocks adjacent to or beyond the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone in the area known as the northern portion of the Eastern Gap; and whole blocks and partial blocks within the current boundaries of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary.

The Gulf of Mexico OCS, covering about 160 million acres, is estimated to contain about 48 billion barrels of undiscovered technically recoverable oil and 141 trillion cubic feet of undiscovered technically recoverable gas.

Revenues received from OCS leases (including high bids, rental payments and royalty payments) are directed to the U.S. Treasury, certain Gulf Coast states (Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama), the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and Historic Preservation Fund.

“Developing our nation’s offshore energy resources is essential to our economy and energy security,” **said Acting BOEM Director Dr. Walter Cruickshank**. “BOEM has a vital role to ensure this is done in an environmentally responsible manner.”

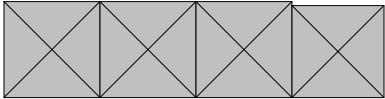
Leases resulting from this proposed sale would include stipulations to protect biologically sensitive resources, mitigate potential adverse effects on protected species, and avoid potential conflicts associated with oil and gas development in the region.

Additionally, BOEM has included appropriate fiscal terms that take into account market conditions and ensure taxpayers receive a fair return for use of the OCS. These terms include a 12.5% royalty rate for leases in less than 200 meters of water depth, and a royalty rate of 18.75% for all other leases issued pursuant to the sale, in recognition of current hydrocarbon price conditions and the marginal nature of remaining Gulf of Mexico shallow water resources.

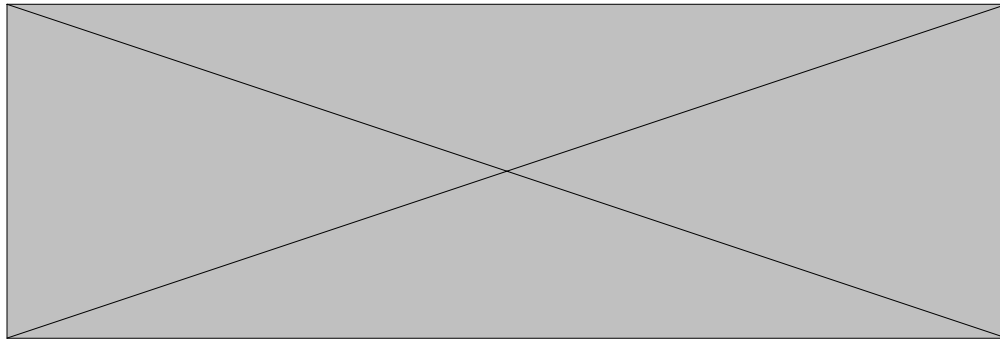
All terms and conditions for Gulf of Mexico Region-wide Sale 252 are detailed in the Proposed Notice of Sale (PNOS) information package, which will be available on Sept. 26, 2018 at: <http://www.boem.gov/Sale-252/>. Copies of the PNOS maps can be requested from the Gulf of Mexico Region’s Public Information Unit at 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, LA 70123, or at 800-200-GULF (4853).

The Notice of Availability of the PNOS will be available for inspection in the Federal Register at: <http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/public-inspection/index.html> on Sept. 26, 2018 and will publish in the Federal Register on Sept. 27, 2018.

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From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-09-28T18:13:27-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: More Than \$50 Million in Grants from Interior Department Will Support State Wildlife Conservation Projects
Received: 2018-09-28T18:14:05-04:00



Date: September 28, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

More Than \$50 Million in Grants from Interior Department Will Support State Wildlife Conservation Projects

WASHINGTON — U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke today announced over \$50 million in funding to states through the State Wildlife Grant (SWG) Program. The funds will support state conservation efforts of non-game fish and wildlife.

The SWG Program is the only federal program with the explicit goal of preventing endangered species listings.

“Collaborative conservation is a joint effort,” **said Secretary Ryan Zinke**. “When the federal and state governments work together, we can achieve the best outcomes. This funding is an investment in the future of our wildlife. When we can recover species before they are listed under the Endangered Species Act, that means more federal resources for the other species that need it most.”

The SWG Program helps states implement approved State Wildlife Action Plans, which list species and habitats in need of assistance. All 50 state and U.S. territorial wildlife agencies have these plans, which include detailed strategies to proactively protect species in greatest conservation need.

“By working with local communities and other partners, state wildlife agencies serve as the foundation for protecting the nation’s wildlife and natural resources legacy,” **said Service Acting Director Jim Kurth**. “The State Wildlife Grant program, which benefits game and

nongame species, supports these crucial state efforts.”

Examples of how SWG Program funds are being used include:

Using SWG funds, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife will map connectivity corridors for a wide array of species. Many species, from migratory birds to furbearing mammals to big game, move throughout the landscape to complete their lifecycles. The tools produced through this project will improve species and habitat connectivity in Oregon through conservation-based design of residential and industrial developments, providing wildlife crossings along highways, careful siting of renewable energy development, open space conservation, and maintenance or restoration of important migratory stopover sites.

Sustained commitment to large-scale, community-level species monitoring is an essential part of the California Wildlife Action Plan. Using SWG program funds for monitoring, the California Department of Fish and Game will improve its ability to detect average annual species population declines as small as 2 percent for up to 70 wildlife species throughout a 20-year period. Targeted species include black bear, bobcat and mule deer, among many others. These data and results will benefit species conservation efforts as well as habitat conservation planning initiatives by identifying locations where the state’s conservation dollars can have the greatest impacts.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), with support from the SWG program, will document the population status, habitat usage and potential threats to the red-crowned parrot, which is present only in the lower Rio Grande Valley near Brownsville, Texas. Due to habitat loss and other threats, the species is in danger of requiring protection under the Endangered Species Act and is a current Service-listed candidate species. TPWD will build a network of local constituents engaged in monitoring and conservation of the bird and develop management recommendations for minimizing identified threats.

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources recently used SWG funds to determine if thermal stress reduces striped bass population fitness. Understanding striped bass sensitivity to increases in water temperature is critical for effective, long-term management of the state’s diverse aquatic environment. A healthy striped bass fishery also enhances angler satisfaction while supporting the significant economic benefits of South Carolina’s sport fishing industry.

The Service is a key supporter of the Nebraska Natural Legacy Project, part of a nationwide effort to address the needs of declining wildlife populations. Several freshwater mussels, such as the recently listed yellow lance mussel in Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina, are considered by the Service to be threatened or endangered. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission has taken a proactive approach to mussel conservation by releasing native captive-bred mussels into river systems they originally inhabited. Landowners, partner organizations, public land managers and many others have voluntarily used the Nebraska Natural Legacy Project to guide conservation work that benefits wildlife habitat and state residents.

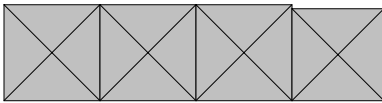
SWG Program grants are administered by the Service’s Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration

Program and are allocated to states and territories according to a congressionally mandated formula based on population and geographic area. Grant funds must be used to address conservation needs, such as research, wildlife surveys, species and habitat management, and monitoring identified within State Wildlife Action Plans. The funds may also be used to update, revise or modify a state's plan.

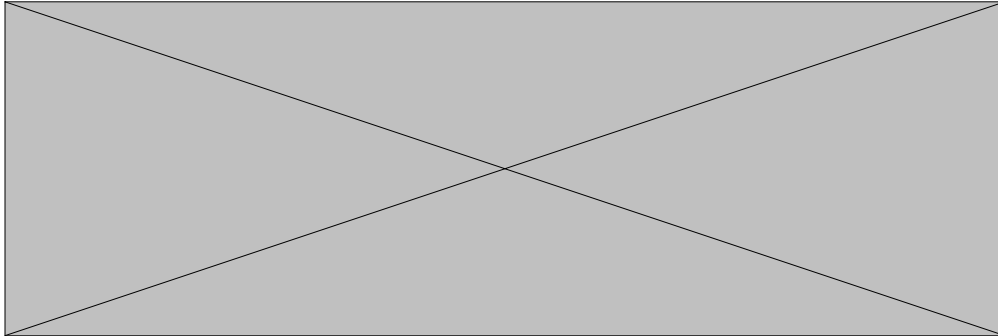
[Click here](#) for the complete list of 2018 SWG Program apportionments.

Learn more about SWG Program accomplishments here: <http://tracs.fws.gov/public/>.

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From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-09-28T18:15:47-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Interior celebrates national wildlife refuges in urban areas
Received: 2018-09-28T18:16:20-04:00



Date: September 28, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Interior Celebrates National Wildlife Refuges In Urban Areas

U.S. Congress designates Urban National Wildlife Refuge Day

WASHINGTON — Today, the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives recognized the value of wildlife refuges in urban areas through bipartisan resolutions designating Sept. 29, 2018 as Urban National Wildlife Refuge Day to highlight the more than 100 urban wildlife refuges across the country.

"Kids growing up in urban areas should have the same opportunities to hunt, fish, and learn about nature as kids growing up in rural parts of our country," **said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke**. "The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is home to dozens of urban wildlife refuges in places like Philadelphia, Denver, New York, San Diego, and Richmond. I encourage Americans of all ages to get outside and enjoy these urban oases. I commend Senators Toomey and Bennet, and Representatives Wittman and Jeffries for their leadership."

In order to be an urban national wildlife refuge, it must be within 25 miles of a city of 250,000 people. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Urban Wildlife Conservation Program was created to introduce Americans living in densely populated areas to the over 100 national wildlife refuges near urban areas.

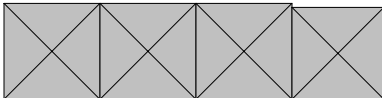
Interior Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks Aurelia Skipwith is slated to kick off the inaugural celebration of Urban National Wildlife Refuge Day at the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum, near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Seventeen other wildlife refuges near urban centers across the country are hosting events for the public to

celebrate this day, including Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge.

“By celebrating Urban National Wildlife Refuge Day, we are highlighting the outdoor opportunities that are available on the doorstep of many of the nation’s urban and suburban residents,” **said Deputy Assistant Secretary Skipwith.** “Urban refuges are places for families to gather and enjoy the outdoors, and places to reach out to the next generation of anglers and hunters, while providing safe access.”

In order to increase access to national wild refuges near urban communities, the Service works to support partnerships with other federal urban conservation initiatives such as the Urban Waters Federal Partnership and federal agencies such as the Department of Education and the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

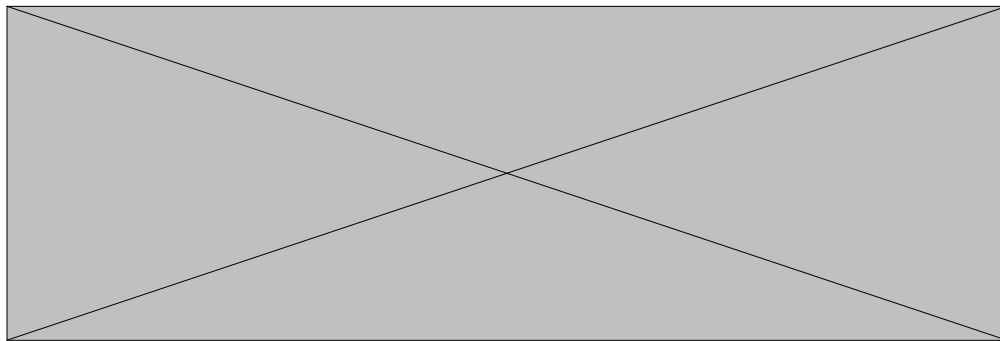
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From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-10-02T14:49:36-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Bureau of Reclamation selects 54 projects to receive \$26.5 million to improve water efficiency in the West
Received: 2018-10-02T14:50:06-04:00
[Water and Energy Efficiency Grants - 2018 Project Descriptions.pdf](#)

Investing into improved water efficiency only helps make the west great again!

States receiving grants: CA, ID, KS, MT, NE, NV, NM, OR, TX, UT, WA, & WY



Date: October 2, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Bureau of Reclamation selects 54 projects to receive \$26.5 million to improve water efficiency in the West

Water and energy efficiency grants focus on projects that improve water management including projects that conserve water

WASHINGTON – Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Brenda Burman announced that Reclamation has selected 54 projects to receive a total of \$26.5 million through WaterSMART water and energy efficiency grants. This funding will be leveraged to accomplish approximately \$167 million in improvements throughout the West. The projects funded with these grants include canal lining and piping, automated gates and control systems, and installation of advanced metering.

“President Trump is dedicated to better water infrastructure for communities and farmers, and adequate and safe water supplies are fundamental to the health, economy, and security of the country,” **said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke**. “WaterSMART water and energy efficiency grants enable Interior, states, tribes, and local entities to work together to take action to increase water supply through infrastructure investments.”

"Improving water efficiency is an important part of ensuring communities have a reliable water supply in the future," **Commissioner Burman said**. "The projects we've selected today

will help communities throughout the Western United States by providing them with tools they can use to better manage their water needs."

Water and energy efficiency grants focus on projects that conserve and use water more efficiently. Projects may also lessen the risk of future water conflicts and provide other benefits that contribute to water supply reliability in the western United States. Other projects complement on-farm improvements that can be carried out with the assistance of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service to accomplish coordinated water conservation improvements.

Funding is provided in two groups. Funding Group I projects receive up to \$300,000 and can be completed within two years. Funding Group II projects may receive up to \$1 million for a phased project up to three years.

The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes near Pocatello, Idaho, will receive \$888,818 to replace a 1,500-horsepower pump on the Portneuf River and install a new variable frequency drive pump. It will also line one mile of earthen canal to reduce water losses due to seepage. The project is expected to result in a water savings of 5,628 acre-feet per year which will increase tribal water supply and improve drought resiliency.

The Mapleton Irrigation District and Company near Provo, Utah, will replace three miles of existing open canals and a box culvert in Hobble Creek Canyon with a pressurized pipeline that will eliminate water losses due to seepage, evaporation and ditch failure. They will receive \$300,000 towards the \$1.2 million project. It is expected to result in an annual water savings of 1,685 acre-feet each year.

The City of Bakersfield will receive \$743,300 to install monitoring devices with telemetry at 20 locations along the Kern River and a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system to accurately and remotely measure Kern River diversions. The \$1.6 million project will result in an annual water savings of 4,592 acre-feet that will be used to replenish the local groundwater and make more water available to users, helping to reduce the potential for water-related conflicts in the area.

The complete list of projects is available at <https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/weeg/>. Projects were selected through a competitive process and must provide a minimum of a 50-percent cost-share.

Visit <https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart> for additional information about the WaterSMART program.

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2018 Water and Energy Efficiency Grants WaterSMART

California

City of Bakersfield, Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition and Automation Project

Reclamation Funding: \$743,300

Total Project Cost: \$1,664,992

The City of Bakersfield will install monitoring devices with telemetry at 20 locations along the Kern River and a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system to accurately and remotely measure Kern River water diversions. The project is expected to result in an annual water savings of 4,592 acre-feet through improved measurements and reduction in over-deliveries and spills. The water conserved as a result of this project will be used to replenish the local groundwater, make more water available to users, and may help to reduce water-related conflict in the area.

Contra Costa Water District, Lawn to Garden Rebate Program

Reclamation Funding: \$300,000

Total Project Cost: \$802,000

The Contra Costa Water District, located near San Francisco, California, will implement a rebate program for residential customers to replace water intensive lawns with water-wise landscaping. The project is expected to replace approximately 800,000 square feet of water intensive turf, resulting in an annual water savings of 81 acre-feet. Water conserved through this project will reduce the amount of water drawn out of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

La Habra Utility Authority, Advanced Metering Infrastructure Project

Reclamation Funding: \$300,000

Total Project Cost: \$1,607,306

The La Habra Utility Authority in Orange County, California, will install 5,001 automated water meters with digital registers to allow for real-time access to current water consumption data and historical water usage data. The project will allow for more timely leak detection and improved water use efficiency through customer outreach and data access. The project is expected to result in water savings of 462 acre-feet annually and will reduce the Utility's dependence on imported water supplies.

Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 40, Advanced Metering Infrastructure Project

Reclamation Funding: \$1,000,000

Total Project Cost: \$14,140,665

The Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 40 will upgrade 18,000 residential and commercial meters to advanced metering infrastructure. Additionally, the District will install data collection devices and software to analyze meter data in real-time. This project will enable the District and customers to monitor water usage and better identify inefficiencies. Once completed, the project is expected to result in annual water savings of 2,133 acre-feet, which will reduce the District's reliance on groundwater withdrawals and imported water.

Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 29, Advanced Metering Infrastructure Project
Reclamation Funding: \$1,000,000 **Total Project Cost: \$6,022,825**

The Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 29, will convert 7,641 analog meters to smart meters with advanced metering infrastructure. The District will also install data collection devices and software to analyze meter data in real-time. The new meters and software will enable customers to monitor water usage and better identify inefficiencies. The project is expected to result in annual water savings of 1,102 acre-feet per year, which will reduce the District's reliance on groundwater withdrawals and on imported water.

Merced Irrigation District, Bear Creek Water Regulating Reservoir
Reclamation Funding: \$1,000,000 **Total Project Cost: \$4,194,849**

The Merced Irrigation District, located south of Sacramento, California, will construct an off-stream regulating reservoir in order to better control its obligated water deliveries from Bear Creek. The project is expected to save 5,300 acre-feet of water annually by reducing over-deliveries and spills, which will allow more water to remain in storage and improve water supply reliability.

Moulton Niguel Water District, Advanced Meter Infrastructure Implementation Program (Phase II)
Reclamation Funding: \$300,000 **Total Project Cost: \$648,484**

The Moulton Niguel Water District, located near Los Angeles, California, will install radio transmitters at 4,851 existing commercial, multi-family, and fire protection meters, in order to convert them to automated meters. The automated meters will allow the District to preemptively identify and address service leaks, improve operations through demand-side time-of-use management, and support a customer portal for monitoring water usage and promoting behavioral changes to optimize consumption. The project is expected to conserve 505 acre-feet of water annually, which will offset the District's reliance on imported water.

Municipal Water District of Orange County, Water Efficient Landscape Transformation Program
Reclamation Funding: \$299,342 **Total Project Cost: \$2,539,771**

The Municipal Water District of Orange County will offer rebates to residential and commercial customers to convert from water-intensive outdoor landscaping to California native/friendly landscapes and install high-efficiency irrigation equipment. The program will provide incentives to replace approximately 370,000 square feet of turf, upgrade 1850 flow controllers, and replace 37,500 landscape irrigation nozzles. The project is expected to result in annual water savings of 1,057 acre-feet, which will reduce the District's reliance on imported water.

North San Joaquin Water Conservation District, South Pump Station Automation Project
Reclamation Funding: \$300,000 **Total Project Cost: \$746,700**

The North San Joaquin Water Conservation District, located near Sacramento, California, will install meters, automated flow control equipment, and a programmable logic controller at the District's South Pump Station. The project is expected to conserve 1,000 acre-feet annually that is currently lost due to spills and unnecessary bypasses back to the river. The project will reduce demands on groundwater pumping and conserved water will be made available to existing users.

City of San Diego, Advanced Metering Infrastructure Project**Reclamation Funding: \$1,000,000****Total Project Cost: \$67,568,898**

The City of San Diego will implement an Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) system, including the replacement of existing manual read meters with 270,000 new AMI meters on residential, commercial, and industrial customer connections. The project will provide water consumption data on a near-real time basis to City staff and customers. The project is expected to save 25,232 acre-feet of water annually, which will be made available to current users and help to reduce the City's demand for imported water.

San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District, Regional Smart Meter AMR/AMI Project**Reclamation Funding: \$300,000****Total Project Cost: \$1,363,004**

The San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District, located near Los Angeles, California, will install Advanced Metering Infrastructure and Automatic Meter Reading technology at 2,975 residential, commercial, and landscape sites. The project will provide accurate, real-time meter reading capabilities and enhanced customer awareness, which will enable improved leak detection and identification of unusual water usage so that issues can be remedied faster. The project is expected to result in water savings of 166 acre-feet per year and will contribute to conservation of the region's limited water supplies and help improve local supply reliability.

Yucaipa Valley Water District, Advanced Metering Infrastructure Project**Reclamation Funding: \$1,000,000****Total Project Cost: \$3,697,764**

The Yucaipa Valley Water District, in San Bernardino County, California, will install advanced metering infrastructure on 12,848 residential connections. The project will provide real-time data to enable customers to monitor water usage and better identify inefficiencies. The project is expected to result in an annual water savings of 1,335 acre-feet, which will be used to reduce the District's use of imported water. After completion of this project, 100% of the District's drinking water and recycled water connections will be equipped with advanced metering infrastructure.

Idaho**Henry's Fork Ground Water District, Irrigation Flow Measurement Project****Reclamation Funding: \$300,000****Total Project Cost: \$664,000**

The Henry's Fork Ground Water District, located in eastern Idaho, along with the Madison Ground Water District, will install advanced water flow measurement devices on 86 groundwater wells. The project will allow for accurate measurements of groundwater withdrawals to better manage and stabilize aquifer depletion in the area. The project is expected to result in annual water savings of 4,348 acre-feet, which will reduce groundwater withdrawals and surface water usage and increase drought resiliency in the area.

Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, Michaud Unit Irrigation Water Efficiency Improvements**Reclamation Funding: \$888,818****Total Project Cost: \$1,786,818**

The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, near Pocatello, Idaho, will remove a 1,500-horsepower pump assembly on the Portneuf River and install a new Variable Frequency Drive pump. The project will also line 1 mile of earthen canal to reduce water losses due to seepage. This project is expected to result in water savings of 5,628 acre-feet per year which will increase tribal water storage and improve drought resiliency.

Kansas

Kansas Bostwick Irrigation District, Open Lateral Conversion to Buried Pipeline System

Reclamation Funding: \$300,000

Total Project Cost: \$650,151

The Kansas Bostwick Irrigation District, in northern Kansas, will convert 4.1 miles of open lateral canal into a buried pipeline system. The project is expected to conserve 724 acre-feet of water annually, which is currently lost to evaporation, seepage and operational spills. The water conserved will allow for reduced diversions from the Republican River.

Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 3, Installation of a SCADA System and Ditch Lining on the Farmers Ditch

Reclamation Funding: \$300,000

Total Project Cost: \$1,612,148

The Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 3, located in western Kansas, will install a new head gate with a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system and line 3 miles of earthen canal with water impervious clay. The project is expected to save 498 acre-feet of water per year, currently lost to seepage and over deliveries. The water conserved as a result of this project will offset the need to pump water from the Ogallala Aquifer.

Montana

Malta Irrigation District, Exeter Siphon Project

Reclamation Funding: \$300,000

Total Project Cost: \$845,020

The Malta Irrigation District, located on the Milk River in northern Montana, will replace the existing Exeter Siphon with a new, geosynthetic lined canal embankment across Exeter Creek. The project also includes the installation of a series of culverts to pass creek flows and storm runoff to protect the canal embankment, which will also help to restore the creek bed for wildlife habitat and recreation. A large debris collection system will also be installed as part of the project to reduce spills by preventing plugging of the culverts. The project is expected to result in annual water savings of 2,500 acre-feet, currently lost due to leakage and spills, and is expected to improve the quantity and quality of water in the Milk River.

Pondera County Canal and Reservoir Company, E Canal Regulating Reservoir Project

Reclamation Funding: \$170,000

Total Project Cost: \$350,281

The Pondera County Canal and Reservoir Company in northern Montana will construct an embankment dam across an existing canal to create a regulating reservoir. The project will provide short-term water storage and allow for more consistent downstream water delivery. The project is expected to conserve 1,191 acre-feet of water annually, currently lost to seepage in the E Canal. Conserved water will be used to meet existing demands.

Nebraska

Upper Republican Natural Resources District, Remote Water Metering and Conservation Project

Reclamation Funding: \$300,000

Total Project Cost: \$768,844

The Upper Republican Natural Resources District, located in northwestern Nebraska, will upgrade 1,018 flow meters with digital registers and radio modules to transmit water usage information and crop evapotranspiration rates via a radio network. This information will allow farmers in the area to better match irrigation volumes with actual crop needs. The project is expected to reduce irrigation water use in the area

by 6.2%, which is equivalent to 8,271 acre-feet per year. The conserved water will reduce groundwater withdrawals and surface water use in the area. A portion of the groundwater that will not be used for irrigation as a result of this project will be used to maintain in-stream flows.

Nevada

Mason Valley Conservation District, Campbell Canal Water Conservation Project

Reclamation Funding: \$82,272

Total Project Cost: \$164,772

The Mason Valley Conservation District, located near Reno, Nevada, will upgrade the gate structure at the junction of the East and West Campbell Canals, install data loggers for continuous flow monitoring and tracking, and install diversion gates controlled by a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition and Automation system. The project is expected to result in water savings of 1,203 acre-feet annually that is currently lost to delivery inefficiencies. Water saved through the project will be available for downstream users and instream flows to benefit Walker Lake.

Southern Nevada Water Authority, Water Smart Landscapes Rebate Program

Reclamation Funding: \$300,000

Total Project Cost: \$3,300,000

The Southern Nevada Water Authority in Las Vegas, Nevada, will expand its landscape rebate program, which provides a financial incentive for residential property owners to replace turf with water efficient landscaping. The project is expected to result in the replacement of approximately 1,833,333 square feet of turf, with an expected annual water savings of 225 acre-feet.

New Mexico

Elephant Butte Irrigation District, Picacho WHEN Project

Reclamation Funding: \$998,182

Total Project Cost: \$2,028,394

The Elephant Butte Irrigation District, located in Las Cruces, New Mexico, will convert two open channel laterals to 8,797 feet of pipe, install three new high-flow lift pumps, and install meters at the new piped laterals. The project is expected to conserve 2,362 acre-feet of water per year currently lost to seepage and evaporation. Conserved water will be used to improve water delivery reliability for irrigators in the area and will also reduce groundwater withdrawals.

Oregon

West Extension Irrigation District, Boardman East Piping and Pressurization Water Conservation Project

Reclamation Funding: \$530,000

Total Project Cost: \$1,178,665

The West Extension Irrigation District, on the Columbia River near Umatilla, Oregon, will convert 4.5 miles of open lateral to buried pipe, eliminate 1.5 miles of open lateral, and install three pump stations for metered, pressurized irrigation water delivery. The project is expected to result in annual water savings of 771 acre-feet, which is currently lost to seepage, evaporation, and operational losses. Conserved water will increase drought resiliency in the water system.

**Cameron County Irrigation District No. 2, Conversion of Canal "F" from Open Canal to a Pipeline
Reclamation Funding: \$299,785 Total Project Cost: \$666,188**

The Cameron County Irrigation District No. 2, will convert approximately 5,600 feet of unlined open canal in a segment of Canal "F" to buried 42-inch polyvinyl chloride pipeline. The project is expected to result in annual water savings of 815 acre-feet that is currently lost to seepage and evaporation.

Cameron County Irrigation District No. 2, Conversion of Lateral "C" from Open Canal to a Pipeline

Reclamation Funding: \$299,543	Total Project Cost: \$665,650
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The Cameron County Irrigation District No. 2 will also convert approximately 5,700 feet of unlined open canal in a segment of Lateral "C" to buried 42-inch polyvinyl chloride pipeline. The project is expected to result in annual water savings of 575 acre-feet that is currently lost to seepage and evaporation.

Cameron County Irrigation District No. 2, Slip Gate Upgrades on Canals "J", "8", "C", "15", and "LI-1"

Reclamation Funding: \$164,767 **Total Project Cost: \$366,148**

The Cameron County Irrigation District No. 2, near Brownsville, Texas, will install automated slip-gates at five existing locations. The current wooden gates are manually operated and are experiencing failures which cause significant water loss. The project is expected to result in annual water savings of 2,050 acre-feet, which will reduce the amount of water pumped from the Rio Grande and improve drought resiliency in the area.

Delta Lake Irrigation District, A-20 Canal Conservation and Reliability Improvements
Reclamation Funding: \$1,000,000 **Total Project Cost: \$3,915,450**

The Delta Lake Irrigation District, near Brownsville, Texas, will convert the A-20 canal, a concrete-lined open channel canal, to 4.5 miles of pipeline. The District will also install a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system and replace system pumps with new variable frequency drive motors. The project is expected to result in annual water savings of 1,644 acre-feet, which is currently lost to seepage. The water conserved from this project will improve the water supply reliability for customers and improve habitat.

El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1, Riverside Canal Lining Project
Reclamation Funding: \$1,000,000 **Total Project Cost: \$2,000,000**

The El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1 will install 1.4 miles of fiber reinforced cement canal lining on an earthen-lined portion of the Riverside Canal to reduce seepage losses. The project is expected to save 2,639 acre-feet of water per year, which will be used to meet existing and future demands.

Hidalgo County Irrigation District No. 2, Lining of Lateral E Canal
Reclamation Funding: \$1,000,000 **Total Project Cost: \$7,040,831**

The Hidalgo County Irrigation District No. 2, near Brownsville, Texas, will line the existing Lateral E Canal with a synthetic geo-composite membrane covered with concrete. The project is expected to conserve approximately 1,110 acre-feet of water per year, currently lost to seepage and leaks. Conserved water will be made available to existing users.

Sharyland Water Supply Corporation, Treatment Plant Efficiency Improvements Project
Reclamation Funding: \$300,000 **Total Project Cost: \$2,891,392**

The Sharyland Water Supply Corporation near Brownsville, Texas, will install a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system, a new sludge dewatering system, and variable frequency drive motors on pumps at its Water Treatment Plant #1. These improvements will increase the water production efficiency of the plant, improve process flow control, and reduce spills and leaks at the plant. The project is expected to result in a water savings of 269 acre-feet per year, which will remain in the Rio Grande.

Utah

Ashley Central Irrigation Company, Canal Enclosure Phase I Project
Reclamation Funding: \$300,000 **Total Project Cost: \$674,390**

The Ashley Central Irrigation Company, located in eastern Utah, will replace 0.6 miles of open canal with approximately 3,000 feet of 36-inch and 34-inch high density polyethylene pipe and install a screen and overflow structure, user turnouts, and meters. The pipe will be buried within the existing canal easement which will be left open to become a future storm water facility for nearby communities. Once completed, this project is expected to save 980 acre-feet of water per year, which will be used to increase storage volumes in Steinaker Reservoir.

Ashley Central Irrigation Company, Canal Enclosure Phase II Project
Reclamation Funding: \$300,000 **Total Project Cost: \$703,860**

The Ashley Central Irrigation Company will also convert a portion of open canal to 4,000 feet of pressurized 32-inch and 34-inch high density polyethylene pipe and install user turnouts and meters. The project is expected to result in annual water savings of 1,302 acre-feet that is currently lost to seepage.

Ashley Central Irrigation Company, Canal Enclosure Phase III Project
Reclamation Funding: \$300,000 **Total Project Cost: \$723,340**

Lastly, the Ashley Central Irrigation Company will convert another 1-mile section of open canal to high density polyethylene pipe and install user turnouts and meters. The project is expected to result in annual water savings of 1,625 acre-feet that is currently lost to seepage.

Burns Bench Irrigation Company, Diversion and Piping Project
Reclamation Funding: \$300,000 **Total Project Cost: \$600,000**

The Burns Bench Irrigation Company, located in eastern Utah, will replace an existing irrigation pond with over 300 feet of pipe, which will deliver water to an existing inlet structure. The project also includes installation of a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system and a new diversion structure. The project is expected to result in a water savings of 3,208 acre-feet per year as a result of eliminating the use of the irrigation pond and conserving water that is currently lost to seepage and evaporation. The project will make the system more efficient, provide additional instream flows, and increase irrigation supply reliability.

City of Salem, Salem City Pressurized Irrigation Metering Project**Reclamation Funding: \$300,000****Total Project Cost: \$2,432,600**

The City of Salem will install flow measurement devices with automated metering infrastructure for residential and commercial landscape irrigation connections. By installing automated water meters, the City will be able to monitor real-time flows in the system and more accurately bill each connection for the actual amount of water used. The project is expected to result in water savings of 460 acre-feet per year by reducing overwatering. Water saved through the project will eliminate the need for supplemental water from the Strawberry Valley Project.

Davis and Weber Counties Canal Company, Small Piping and Hydro Project**Reclamation Funding: \$300,000****Total Project Cost: \$750,000**

The Davis and Weber Counties Canal Company, located near Salt Lake City, Utah, will convert 1,200 feet of existing, unlined earthen canal to pipe and replace 320 feet of leaking steel pipe with reinforced concrete pipe. The project is expected to conserve 523 acre-feet of water per year currently lost to seepage, evaporation, and evapotranspiration. Conserved water will be made available to existing users. The project also includes installation of a two-kilowatt hydropower unit, expected to generate approximately 8.2 megawatt-hours of power annually, which will be used to help meet the energy demands of the Company.

Davis and Weber Counties Canal Company, Secondary Water Metering and Small Hydro Project**Reclamation Funding: \$300,000****Total Project Cost: \$750,000**

The Davis and Weber Counties Canal Company will also install 600 new water meters and a four-kilowatt hydropower unit within the Company's system. The project is expected to conserve 155 acre-feet of water annually, which is currently lost due to excessive consumption from non-metered consumers. Conserved water will be made available to existing users. The hydropower unit is expected to generate 3.6 megawatt-hours of power annually, which will serve Company loads.

Draper Irrigation Company (Water Pro), Pressure Irrigation Metering Project**Reclamation Funding: \$1,000,000****Total Project Cost: \$4,134,924**

The Draper Irrigation Company, near Salt Lake City, Utah, will install 2,063 water meters on currently unmetered irrigation connections. The project will increase water conservation and water use efficiency by providing water consumption data to the Company and its customers and will also enable the Company to implement a tiered billing structure. The project is expected to result in water savings of 1,092 acre-feet per year, which will be supplied to existing users.

Duchesne County Water Conservancy District, Water Efficiency Project: Phase 2**Reclamation Funding: \$238,000****Total Project Cost: \$595,000**

The Duchesne County Water Conservancy District, located in eastern Utah, will install telemetry, sensors, metering equipment, flumes, and weirs on diversions, canals, and laterals throughout the Duchesne County service area. By addressing over-delivery, seepage, and evaporation losses, the project is expected to save 3,907 acre-feet of water per year, which will be made available to existing users.

Little Cottonwood Brown Ditch Company, Brown Ditch Rehabilitation Project**Reclamation Funding: \$1,000,000****Total Project Cost: \$2,526,300**

The Little Cottonwood Brown Ditch Company, near Salt Lake City, Utah, will improve the Little Cottonwood Brown Ditch System by replacing the existing diversion dam with two radial gates. The project will also replace 4.1 miles of open ditch and pipe with 2.7 miles of high density polyethylene pipe. The project is expected to save 2,020 acre-feet of water per year currently lost to spills. The conserved water will decrease the demand on the local groundwater resources and will be made available to meet existing demands.

Mapleton Irrigation District and Company, Hobbie Creek Ditch Piping Project**Reclamation Funding: \$300,000****Total Project Cost: \$1,220,000**

The Mapleton Irrigation District and Company, located near Provo, Utah, will replace 3 miles of existing open canals and a box culvert in Hobbie Creek Canyon with a pressurized pipeline that will eliminate water losses due to seepage, evaporation, and ditch failure. The project is expected to result in annual water savings of 1,685 acre-feet which will be made available to existing users.

Peoa South Bench Canal and Irrigation Company, South Bench Piping and Small Hydro Project**Reclamation Funding: \$1,000,000****Total Project Cost: \$2,145,730**

The Peoa South Bench Canal and Irrigation Company, near Salt Lake City, Utah, will replace the entire South Bench canal system with 19,760 feet of enclosed, pressurized pipe that is more efficient and has a less impactful alignment. The project also includes installation of a concrete screening structure, system meter, and 100-watt micro-hydropower unit. The project is expected to conserve 2,629 acre-feet of water annually that is currently lost to seepage, which will be made available to existing users. The hydropower unit is expected to generate approximately 588 kilowatt-hours of power each year, which will serve local canal operation power needs.

Provo River Water Users Association, Weber-Provo Diversion Metering Project**Reclamation Funding: \$154,156****Total Project Cost: \$308,312**

The Provo River Water Users Association will add a piped bypass from the Weber-Provo diversion dam to the Weber River to allow for year-round control of flows in the river. Currently, during the winter, the diversion gate is frozen in place causing water to spill. The project also includes the installation of two magnetic meters housed in concrete vaults to provide accurate, real-time measurement of flows in the Upper Weber River. The project is expected to save 2,571 acre-feet of water per year by reducing spills and reducing over-deliveries, which will be made available to existing users and will help ensure that water rights, contracts, and instream flow needs are met.

Weber Basin Water Conservancy District, Woods Cross Small Secondary Water Metering and Hydro Project**Reclamation Funding: \$300,000****Total Project Cost: \$750,000**

The Weber Basin Water Conservancy District, near Salt Lake City, Utah, will install 750 meters on residential landscape watering connections, providing real-time water usage data and outreach to customers. The project is expected to result in water savings of 300 acre-feet per year, which will reduce groundwater pumping and help meet future demands. The project also includes installation of a two-kilowatt hydropower unit, expected to generate approximately 8.7 megawatt-hours of power, annually which will be used to help meet the energy demands of the District.

West Cache Canal Company, Newton Lateral Piping Project**Reclamation Funding: \$1,000,000****Total Project Cost: \$2,480,000**

The West Cache Canal Company, located in northern Utah, will replace 5.3 miles of earthen canal with a pressurized pipe and replace 23 small, inefficient pump stations with one centralized pump station. The project is expected to save 2,352 acre-feet of water per year currently lost to seepage. This project is expected to improve irrigation water quality and supply reliability which will allow for future conversion from flood irrigation to pivot irrigation in the service area.

Washington**Kennewick Irrigation District, Canal Lining Project****Reclamation Funding: \$1,000,000****Total Project Cost: \$3,424,874**

The Kennewick Irrigation District, located near Yakima, Washington, will install 5.6 miles of high-density polyethylene geomembrane canal liner on their earthen main canals and diversions. The project is expected to result in annual water savings of 1,237 acre-feet currently lost to seepage. The conserved water will remain in the river system.

Kittitas Reclamation District, Water Conservation and Stream Supplementation**Reclamation Funding: \$300,000****Total Project Cost: \$600,000**

The Kittitas Reclamation District, located near Yakima, Washington, will line approximately 1,600 feet of the South Branch Canal with an impermeable geotextile membrane and concrete. The project is expected to conserve 183 acre-feet of water per year, which is currently lost to seepage. The conserved water will provide benefits for fish and wildlife by helping to restore instream flows in over-appropriated or flow-impaired tributaries to the upper Yakima River.

Quincy-Columbia Basin Irrigation District, W53.1D & E Canal Lining**Reclamation Funding: \$300,000****Total Project Cost: \$910,000**

The Quincy-Columbia Basin Irrigation District will line 8,422 feet of the currently unlined West Canal. The project is expected to save 855 acre-feet of water per year currently lost to seepage. The water saved will help meet the needs of rural and agricultural water users.

Wyoming**Eden Valley Irrigation and Drainage District, Eden Canal Lining Project****Reclamation Funding: \$300,000****Total Project Cost: \$630,000**

The Eden Valley Irrigation and Drainage District, located in central Wyoming, will replace 1,100 linear feet of open canal with a polyvinyl chloride lining and shotcrete. The project is expected to result in annual water savings of 1,554 acre-feet that is currently lost to seepage. The conserved water will remain in the system to meet existing demands.

Hanover Irrigation District, Cottonwood Check and Spill Project**Reclamation Funding: \$275,000****Total Project Cost: \$553,000**

The Hanover Irrigation District in northern Wyoming will improve the existing Cottonwood check and spill structure, which delivers water from the Boyson Reservoir, with a new upgraded check and spill structure. The project also includes measurement devices and controls to better manage flows. The project is

expected to result in annual water savings of 1,165 acre-feet that is currently lost to spills and seepage. Conserved water will be used to meet existing demands.

Heart Mountain Irrigation District, Rattlesnake Canal Liner Phase I Project

Reclamation Funding: \$300,000

Total Project Cost: \$900,005

The Heart Mountain Irrigation District, located in northern Wyoming, will improve an existing section of Rattlesnake Canal with 637 feet of new concrete lining. The project is expected to conserve 211 acre-feet of water that is currently being lost to seepage and spills. Water saved will be made available to existing users. The project also includes the installation of a two-kilowatt hydropower unit. The hydropower unit is expected to generate approximately 8.8 megawatt-hours of power each year, which will be used to power the Rattlesnake Canal screen and the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system.

Heart Mountain Irrigation District, Rattlesnake Canal Liner Phase II Project

Reclamation Funding: \$300,000

Total Project Cost: \$900,005

The Heart Mountain Irrigation District will also improve another section of Rattlesnake Canal with 637 feet of new concrete lining. The project is expected to conserve 211 acre-feet of water that is currently being lost to seepage and spills. The project also includes the installation of a two-kilowatt hydropower unit.

Heart Mountain Irrigation District, Rattlesnake Canal Liner Phase III Project

Reclamation Funding: \$300,000

Total Project Cost: \$900,005

Lastly, the Heart Mountain Irrigation District will improve an additional section of Rattlesnake Canal with 637 feet of new concrete lining. The project is expected to conserve 211 acre-feet of water that is currently being lost to seepage and spills. The project also includes the installation of a two-kilowatt hydropower unit.

Midvale Irrigation District, Pilot Butte 27.0 B and Wyoming 31.7 Laterals Piping Project

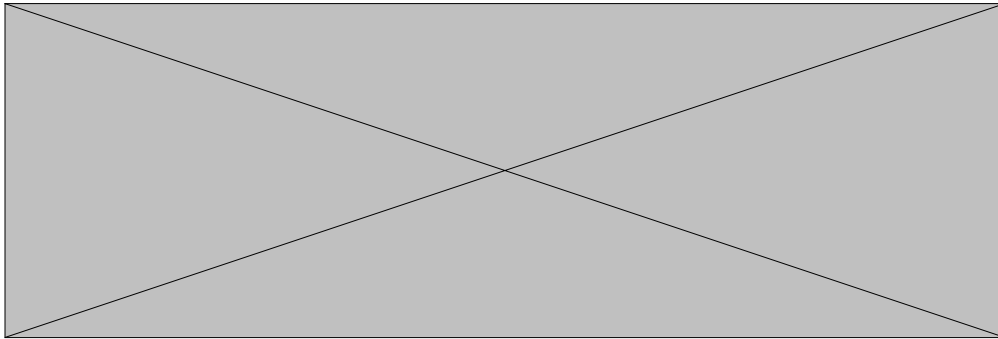
Reclamation Funding: \$300,000

Total Project Cost: \$1,381,232

The Midvale Irrigation District, located in central Wyoming, will convert 2.5 miles of open ditch and concrete lined laterals to buried polyvinyl chloride pipe. The project is expected to conserve 8,400 acre-feet of water annually by reducing seepage losses. Conserved water will be made available to downstream users.

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-10-04T19:26:07-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Proclaims October as National Hunting and Fishing Month
Received: 2018-10-04T19:26:39-04:00

The American tradition of hunting and fishing has led us to American greatness in the past, and that great tradition continues today...



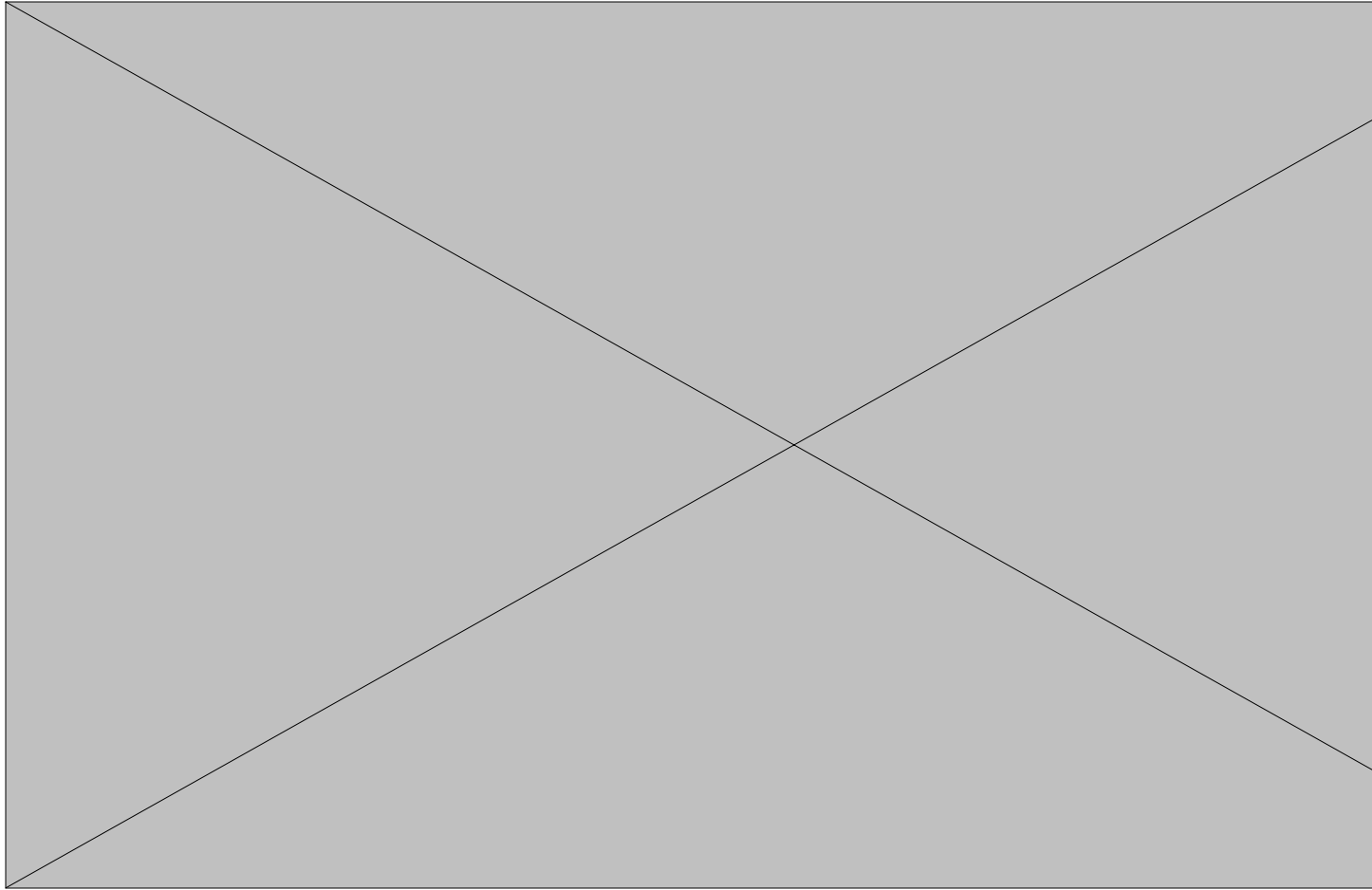
Date: October 4, 2018

Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Proclaims October as National Hunting and Fishing Month

WASHINGTON — Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke proclaimed the month of October 2018 as National Hunting and Fishing Month while visiting the Wonders of Wildlife Museum in Springfield, Missouri. The Trump Administration has prioritized public access to Federal lands for sportsmen and sportswomen to expand opportunities for all citizens to enjoy hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation across our nation.

“I am proud to designate the month of October as National Hunting and Fishing month” **said Secretary Zinke.** “American hunters and anglers are the backbone of conservation efforts, generating over a billion dollars each year for conservation. For more than 150 years, sportsmen and women have led efforts to protect and conserve our Nation’s fish and wildlife. In an effort to serve as good neighbors and stewards of our public lands, the Department has opened millions of acres for hunting, and we are currently working to protect big game migration corridors. I call upon all Americans to join us in recognizing the lasting benefits hunters and anglers have provided our society through their time, tireless efforts, and financial resources.”

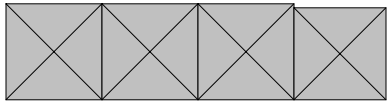


Secretary Zinke signed Secretarial Order 3362 on February 9, 2017, which aims to improve habitat quality and western big game winter range and migration corridors for antelope, elk, and mule deer. The order fosters improved collaboration with states and private landowners and facilitates all parties using the best available science to implement conservation activities that help ensure that robust big game populations continue to exist. The order seeks to improve wildlife management and conservation and expand opportunities for big game hunting by improving priority habitats within important and migration corridors across the West. Priority states currently include Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

In September, Secretary Zinke opened more than 251,000 acres to new or expanded hunting and fishing opportunities at 30 national wildlife refuges across the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's [National Wildlife Refuge System](#).

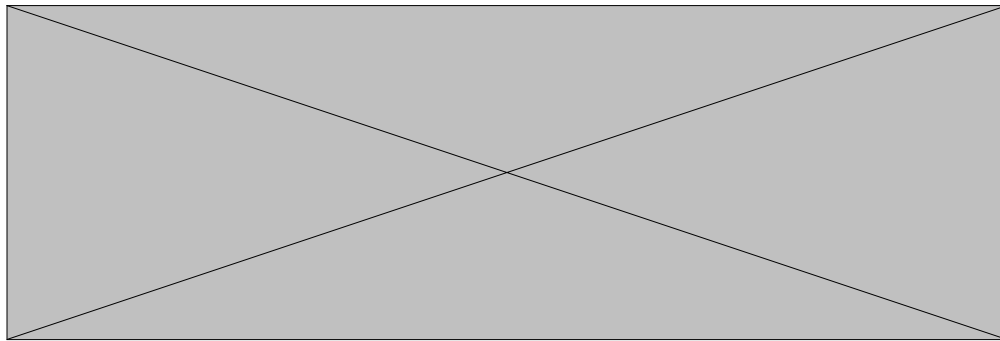
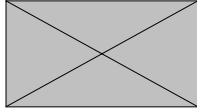
Hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities contributed more than \$156 billion in economic activity in communities across the United States in 2016 according to the Service's [National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation](#), published every five years. More than 101 million Americans – 40 percent of the U.S. population 16 and older – pursue wildlife-related recreation – hunting, fishing and birding among others.

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From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-10-05T20:43:05-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: 2 Press Releases (Migration Corridors) - Secretary Zinke Announces \$230,000 Research Grants for Utah & Arizona Big Game Migration Corridors
Received: 2018-10-05T20:43:33-04:00

The Trump Administration and Secretary Zinke are advocates for wild life and environmental protections. We continue to practice the multiple use principal in our public lands; and migration corridors out west will continue to be monitored with best sciences applied.



Date: October 5, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Announces \$230,000 Research Grants for Utah Big Game Migration Corridors

Funding will help researchers collar and track 140 deer

WASHINGTON — Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke announced over \$230,000 is awarded in grant funding for three state-identified research priority projects into big game migration corridors in Utah. The funding comes as a result of [Secretarial Order 3362](#), which aims to improve the Federal government's collaboration with the states to enhance and improve the quality of big-game winter range and migration corridor habitat.

Secretary Zinke asked states to submit their top priorities to advance big game habitat conservation. The number one research need identified by the state of Utah is associated with the impact of highways and increasing housing development. Additionally, their number two and three research priorities seek to identify corridors or better define winter range due to concerns associated with rapid growth and housing development, highways, and juniper encroachment.

“Earlier this year, I was tagging and collaring mule deer in a neighborhood south of Salt Lake City which didn't exist 10 years ago. This rapid expansion and development makes it all the more important that we fund important research projects like these to identify and better define migration corridors,” **said Secretary Ryan Zinke.** “These grants will allow the state to conduct research to understand how deer move and migrate within Utah. Once we can scientifically establish or better define the migration routes, it will allow us to work in partnership and use the best science and innovation to conserve the important corridors on which mule deer populations rely.”

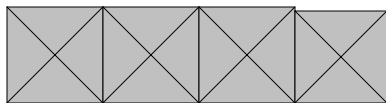
"Utah is one of the fastest growing states in the nation. With this rapid growth we need to be nimble and progressive in our management and restoration programs to provide habitat and migration corridors for big game,” **said Mike Fowlks, Utah Wildlife Division Director.** “Secretarial Order 3362 has been an incredible shot in the arm by helping us address several urgent research needs for big game in Utah. Information collected from these studies is being used to map migration corridors and plan projects, such as wildlife crossings, that will preserve big-game movements for generations to come. I cannot stress enough how much the Secretarial Order can help the state of Utah maintain abundant populations of deer, elk, and pronghorn."

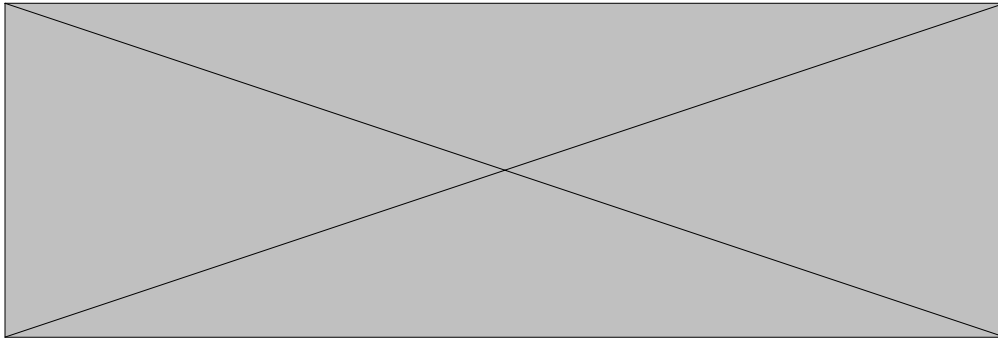
The number one research priority identified by Utah is focused on the mule deer population that migrates down from the Oquirrh Mountains into the Lake Mountains, where they spend their winter months. This migration corridor carries the mule deer population across the state highway that connects the City of Eagle Mountain with the Salt Lake and Provo areas. Unfortunately, this migration corridor is impacted by rapid development occurring in the area.

Acting on the Order, the Bureau of Land Management is providing funding to the Utah Division of Wildlife to capture and place Global Positioning System (GPS) collars on 40 mule deer (20 does, 20 bucks) in the winter of 2018/19. The GPS tracking collars will allow the Division to accurately describe summer and winter range use, as well as migratory movements and corridors, which ultimately will inform the Utah Department of Transportation.

The remaining two Utah priority projects are focused on the Zion and the Chalk Creek/Kamas Wildlife Management Units. The herds in both units are important to state wildlife managers and hunters alike. The Zion Unit hosts a deer herd that numbers over 15,000 individuals, whereas the Chalk Creek/Kamas Unit hosts almost 20,000 mule deer. Using funding provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Utah biologists with the Utah Division of Wildlife will collar 80 mule deer in the Zion Unit to document seasonal ranges and migration corridors and 60 mule deer in the Chalk Creek/Kamas Unit to do the same.

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Date: October 5, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Announces \$265,000 in Research Grants for Arizona Big Game Migration Corridors

Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke announced over \$265,000 is awarded in grant funding for three state-identified research priority projects into big game migration corridors in Arizona. The funding comes as a result of [Secretarial Order 3362](#), which aims to improve the Federal government's collaboration with the states to enhance and improve the quality of big-game winter range and migration corridor habitat.

Secretary Zinke asked States to submit their top priorities to advance big game habitat conservation. The number one research need identified by Arizona is for data on mule deer movement corridors in the area planned for the new Interstate 11 (I-11). Additionally, their two other research priorities are associated with highways.

“Earlier this year, I tagged and collared mule deer in a neighborhood south of Salt Lake City which didn't exist 10 years ago. This rapid expansion and development makes it all the more important that we fund important research projects, like these with the state of Arizona, to identify migration corridors,” **said Secretary Ryan Zinke**. “These grants will allow the state to conduct research to understand how deer move and migrate within Arizona and 10 other western states. Once we can scientifically establish the migration routes, it will allow us to work in partnership and use the best science and innovation to conserve the important corridors on which mule deer populations rely.”

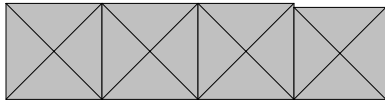
"This partnership to identify movement corridors will help us intensify our efforts to conserve these important corridors in a state that is undergoing tremendous growth," **said Ty Gray, Director, Arizona Game and Fish Department**. "Without this collaboration, these corridors might be lost."

The number one research priority identified by Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) involves gathering data on mule deer movement so these data can help influence design decisions on a new Interstate 11 (I-11) in Arizona. The grant money provided by the Bureau of Land Management through the implementation of Secretarial Order 3362 will allow the AZGFD

to work proactively with the Department of Transportation during the planning process, rather than the historic approach of reactive retrofit actions once a highway is constructed. The grant funding will be used to collar 20 mule deer (60 total) in three identified study areas to map their migration habits. Acquiring this migration route information will allow developers the opportunity to influence the design of the interstate to maximize the protection of the migration corridor.

The remaining two Arizona priority research projects are focused on the SR77 Overpass between Catalina Mountains and Tortolita Mountains and the San Francisco Peaks area. In 2014 a highway overpass was built across SR77, however a thorough evaluation of how mule deer are moving through the whole corridor and between mountain ranges has not yet been conducted. Grant funding will help conduct this evaluation by using funds to collar 20 mule deer to track their movements in this area. Additionally, the information they acquire will better inform future decisions about installing overpasses and necessary conservation on associated surrounding landscapes. Their third priority research focuses on gaining a better understanding of migration corridors in relation to a high volume of annual road kills on SR89 east of the San Francisco Peaks and on movement corridors related to exurban development.

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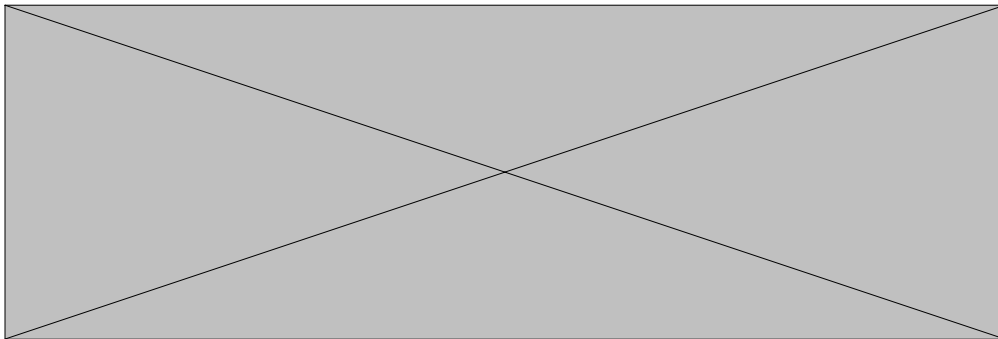


From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-10-18T09:55:26-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Interior Announces Multi-Billion Dollar Regulatory Relief in FY 2018
Received: 2018-10-18T09:55:57-04:00

This administrative ship is being turned back on course from within, and saving \$2.5 billion is not mere crumbs!!

Now that the administration is gaining traction, tax cuts compounded by further deregulation equals a more prosperous America!!

Promises made, promises kept...



Date: October 17, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Interior Announces Multi-Billion Dollar Regulatory Relief in FY 2018

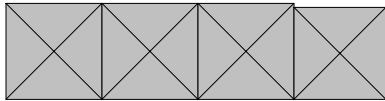
WASHINGTON – Today, the U.S. Department of the Interior announced its success in reducing the Department's regulatory burden in support of and compliance with President Donald Trump's [Executive Order 13771](#) on Reducing Regulation and Controlling Regulatory Costs. Interior has been a leader in the Trump Administration at cutting bureaucratic red tape. Fiscal Year 2018 regulatory reform actions have resulted in a savings of roughly \$2.5 billion in net present value. Since January 2017, Interior has withdrawn more than 150 proposed rulemakings from the regulatory agenda and finalized no less than 19 deregulatory actions in FY2018. These regulatory reforms coupled with historic tax cuts and other factors have grown the economy and helped United States energy production hit historic highs. The Department recently held a record-shattering lease sale on federal lands in New Mexico which generated close to \$1 billion- nearly half of which will go directly to the State of New Mexico.

“The Trump Administration is doing exactly what was promised and making smart decisions to reform and reduce the regulatory burden on the American people and economy, and it's producing big results,” **said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke.** “On President Trump’s

first day in office, the total United States oil production was 8.8 million barrels of oil per day. Today, we're the largest oil and gas producer on the face of the planet, producing 11.2 million barrels a day, and we're on our way to 14 million barrels a day. We're also expediting the permitting process for wind, solar, and hydropower projects and rebuilding aging infrastructure. These results would not be possible under the outdated and expensive regulatory scheme of the past."

Cost saving deregulatory actions include changes to the Venting and Flaring Rule and the Well Control and Production Safety Systems Rules (PSSR). The Bureau of Land Management rolled back the Obama era Venting and Flaring rule, a change that is estimated to save American taxpayers between \$1.4 to \$1.6 billion. Critics claim these regulations reduce safety standards, however that is not supported by evidence, as 2018 was the safest year on record for offshore oil and gas. The Department is in the process of finalizing a number of regulatory actions that includes modernizing the Endangered Species Act's use of "critical habitat" designations and strengthening the economic and scientific standards used to list and de-list species, as well as the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement revising the Well Control and Production Safety Systems Rules.

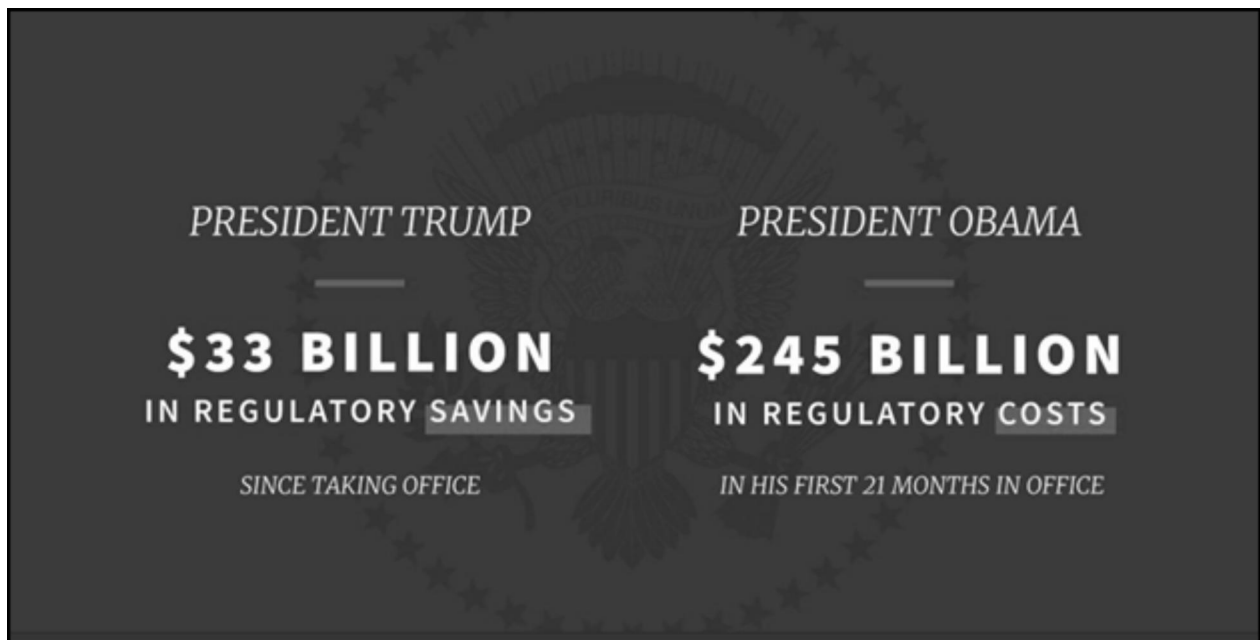
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From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-10-18T11:59:06-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] President Trump Is Following Through on His Promise to Cut Burdensome Red Tape and Unleash the American Economy
Received: 2018-10-18T11:59:42-04:00

Esteemed Trump Colleagues,

This morning, the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) announced that **in the last year, the Trump Administration's regulatory reform efforts have led to a total of \$23 billion in cost savings.**



Overall findings from OMB's Fall 2018 Unified Agenda:

- ☐ In FY 2018, the Trump Administration saved a net \$23 billion in regulatory costs.
- ☐ In the same period, **the Trump Administration eliminated 12 regulations for every 1 new significant regulation passed.**
 - By contrast, the Obama Administration imposed a net \$245 billion in regulatory costs during the same time period.
 - In the last year, **the Trump Administration eliminated 176 outdated, unnecessary, or duplicative regulatory actions.**

- **Since President Trump took office, the Administration has provided \$33 billion in net regulatory savings.**

Under President Trump's leadership, the Administration has revived the American economy by getting rid of unnecessary, outdated, and duplicative regulatory burdens. Today, the President will meet with American workers from various industries to discuss the Administration's deregulation initiatives that have benefited them and the ongoing efforts to ensure Americans across the country live more prosperous lives.

More information below, including links to OMB materials and a fact sheet on the Administration's efforts to cut red tape and unleash economic freedom.



RED TAPE REDUCTION

12 TO 1

DEREG TO REG RATIO

**\$23
BILLION**

IN NET SAVINGS

176

DEREGULATORY ACTIONS

Since the day President Trump took office, Americans across the country have experienced the positive effects of pro-growth economic policies. A fundamental pillar of that success has been the Administration's regulatory reform agenda, which has prioritized eliminating unnecessary burdens and promoting common-sense regulatory policy. For far too long, families and businesses were burdened by regulations from Washington that frustrated THEIR American dream. Over the past twenty-one months, President Trump has delivered on his promise of reining in unnecessary regulations, making excessive federal overreach a policy of the past. Through these regulatory reforms, Americans once again feel they can confidently invest in their families, businesses, and future.



\$23 BILLION IN COST SAVINGS

In Fiscal Year 2018, President Trump has saved \$23 billion in overall regulatory costs. Since taking office, the Trump Administration has achieved provided \$33 billion in net regulatory savings.



12-TO-1

Agencies across the Federal Government eliminated 176 outdated, unnecessary or duplicative regulatory actions and issued only 14 new significant regulatory actions in FY18 – a ratio of 12-to-1.



PLANNED OR WITHDRAWN ACTIONS

The Trump Administration withdrew or delayed 648 regulatory actions in FY18. Since January 2017, a total of 2253 regulatory actions have been delayed or withdrawn.

ADMINISTRATION COMPARISON

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION:
Imposed **\$245 billion** in burdensome regulatory costs on the American people in the first 21 months.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION:
Reversed course and **saved \$33 billion** in regulatory costs in the first 21 months.

REGULATORY COSTS



(From The 2018 Regulatory Reform Report, [Click to View](#))

The 2018 Regulatory Reform Report: Cutting the Red Tape, Unleashing Economic Freedom

OMB Press Release: Regulatory Relief Efforts Deliver \$23 Billion In Regulatory Cost Savings

Introduction to the Fall 2018 Regulatory Plan: Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) Administrator Neomi Rao

Full Agenda: Fall 2018 Unified Agenda of Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions

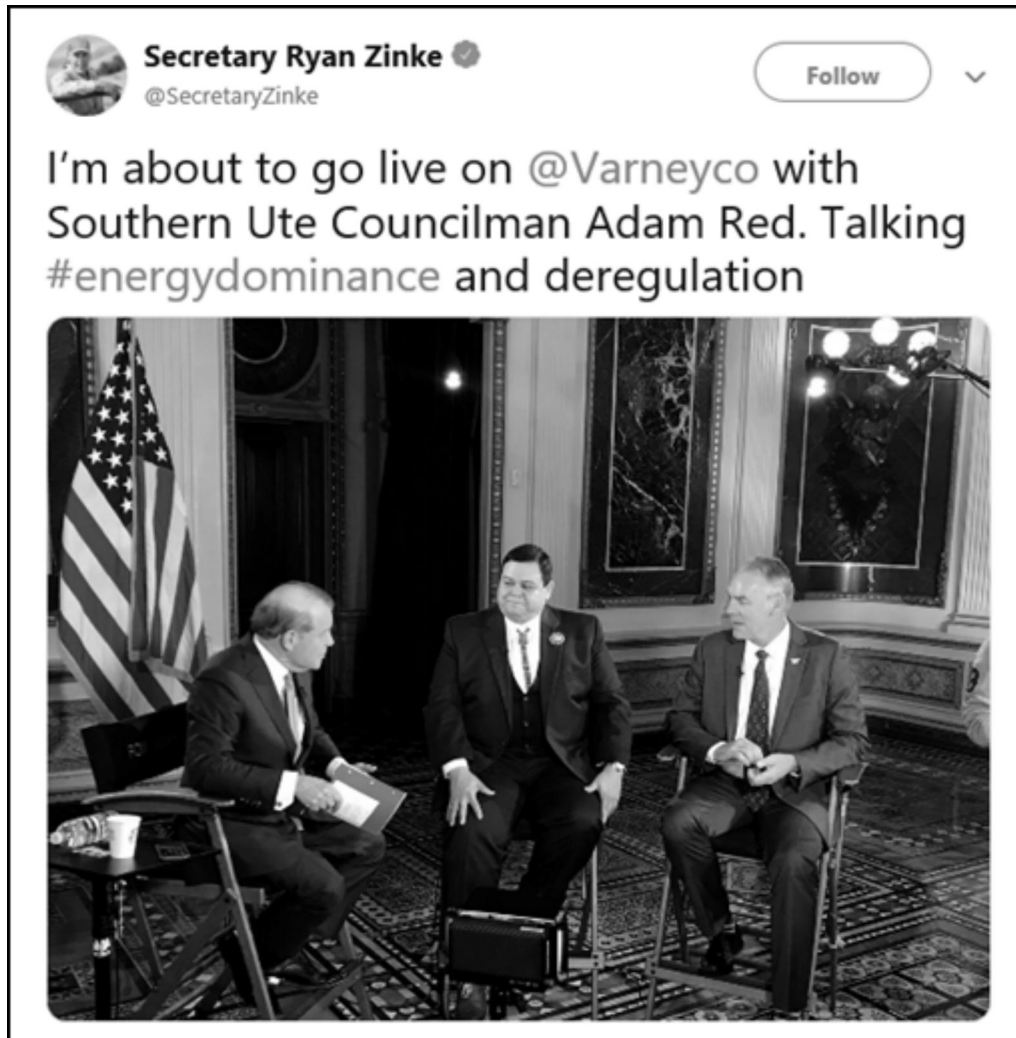


President Trump Is Following Through on His Promise to Cut Burdensome Red Tape and Unleash the American Economy

“An ever-growing maze of regulations, rules, restrictions has cost our country trillions and trillions of dollars, millions of jobs, countless American factories, and devastated many industries.” – President Donald J. Trump

ENDING OVERREGULATION: President Donald J. Trump is delivering on his promise to get rid of unnecessary, outdated, and duplicative regulations.

- The Trump Administration is releasing findings that show the President's regulatory reform efforts saved American families and business owners \$23 billion in fiscal year (FY) 2018.
 - This progress builds on the Administration's significant regulatory reforms in FY 2017.
- President Trump's historic regulatory reform is a complete change in direction, with Americans actually seeing an overall decrease in regulatory burdens.
- The Administration issued 176 deregulatory actions last year, eliminating 12 regulations for every new one according to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA).
 - The President has again exceeded his pledge to cut two regulations across the year for every new one.
- Since taking office, President Trump's efforts have achieved \$33 billion in regulatory savings.
 - In a stark contrast, President Obama imposed \$245 billion in burdensome regulatory costs on the American people in his first 21 months in office.
- Businesses are finally being freed of Washington's overreach and the American economy is flourishing as a result.



REAL RESULTS: President Trump's efforts to cut burdensome and unnecessary red tape are bringing real change and delivering real results for Americans.

- ☐ The Department of Labor made it easier for small businesses to provide better health insurance to their employees through association health plans.
- ☐ The Department of Veterans Affairs greatly expanded veterans' ability to use telehealth services, giving them access to state-of-the-art healthcare everywhere.
- ☐ The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has taken action to free our fishermen from burdensome red tape while also promoting responsible fishing practices.
 - For instance, areas off the coast of New England have been opened to commercial sea scallop harvesting for the first time in years, netting an economic benefit of \$654 million.

- The Department of Health and Human Services reduced paperwork for nursing facilities, inpatient hospitals, and home health providers, saving \$8.2 billion in regulatory costs.



DEREGULATION WILL CONTINUE: The Trump Administration will continue its bold reforms to roll back burdensome red tape in FY 2019.

- President Trump's regulatory reform efforts are accelerating, and we will continue to take a responsible approach to addressing overly burdensome regulations in FY 2019.
- The Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Environmental Protection Agency

(EPA) have proposed amendments to existing Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards.

- These amendments could save up to \$340 billion over the lifetime of new vehicles.
- The EPA and Army Corps of Engineers have proposed new rulemakings that would reassess the Obama Administration's burdensome "Waters of the United States" rule.
- EPA has proposed the Affordable Clean Energy rule, which would replace the 2015 Clean Power Plan (CPP).
 - In some scenarios, avoided compliances costs total \$6.4 billion compared to the CPP.

FREEING AMERICA'S FISHERMEN

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has taken numerous actions to promote responsible and economically beneficial fishing practices. Large areas off the coast of New England have been opened to commercial sea scallop harvesting for the first time in years. Allowing scallop harvesting in these areas will result in a net economic benefit of \$654 million dollars. NOAA has taken a series of other steps, including increasing flexibility for bluefin tuna fishermen; revising regulations for shark fisheries to improve revenue from sustainable catch; and modifying rules for recreational fishing vessels off the coast of Oregon to allow the catch of target groundfish without accidental takings of certain rockfish species. Moreover, NOAA has expanded the Fisheries Finance Program, making it easier for the next generation of fishermen to purchase fishing rights and start a business.

REUTERS: "U.S. REGAINS CROWN AS MOST COMPETITIVE ECONOMY FOR FIRST TIME SINCE 2008: WEF"

"The U.S. economy sits atop of the World Economic Forum's annual global competitiveness

survey for the first time since the 2007-2009 financial crisis...”

U.S. regains crown as most competitive economy for first time since 2008: WEF

By Katanga Johnson

Reuters

October 16, 2018

The U.S. economy sits atop of the World Economic Forum’s annual global competitiveness survey for the first time since the 2007-2009 financial crisis, benefiting from a new ranking methodology this year, the Swiss body said on Tuesday.

In its closely-watched annual Global Competitiveness Report, the WEF said the U.S. is the country closest to the “frontier of competitiveness,” an indicator that ranks competitive productivity using a scale from zero to 100.

The U.S. beat off Singapore, Germany, Switzerland and Japan, the other top four markets, with a score of 85.6 out of 100, the report said, due to its “vibrant” entrepreneurial culture and “strong” labor market and financial system.

...

The last time the U.S. topped the list was 2008.

...

[Read the full article here.](#)



CNBC: “JOB OPENINGS HIT RECORD 7.136 MILLION IN AUGUST”

“Openings dwarfed the total level of workers looking for jobs, which stood at 6.23 million for that month and fell to 5.96 million in September, recent Labor Department statistics show.”

Job openings hit record 7.136 million in August

By Jeff Cox

CNBC

October 16, 2018

Job openings hit a fresh record in August, indicating companies could face more inflationary pressures ahead with a tight labor market.

The vacancies level hit 7.14 million for the month, according to the Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey, a report Federal Reserve officials watch closely for clues about where employment stands.

The total number of hires also reached a new record of 5.78 million.

Openings dwarfed the total level of workers looking for jobs, which stood at 6.23 million for that month and fell to 5.96 million in September, recent Labor Department statistics show.

...

Workers continued to show confidence in the jobs market, evidenced by a quits rate that edged just a shade lower from July to 3.58 million.

...

[Read the full article here.](#)

“An ever-growing MAZE OF REGULATIONS, RULES, RESTRICTIONS HAS COST OUR COUNTRY trillions and trillions of dollars, millions of jobs, countless American factories, and devastated many industries.”

PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP

PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP PROPELS AN ECONOMIC RESURGENCE

President Trump's policies are driving an economic resurgence that is bringing back American manufacturing and boosting economic opportunity for American workers.

WASHINGTON EXAMINER: Trump Smashes Regs, Cuts \$33 Billion vs. \$245 Billion Added by Obama

“President Trump’s promise to cut Obama-era regulations has gone into overdrive, with the slashing generating \$33 billion in savings, far more than expected. A new report from the White House budget office said that \$23 billion in savings has occurred this year alone, with the total at \$33 billion since the president took office.”

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL: U.S. Manufacturing Capacity Increases for 16th Month in a Row

“U.S. manufacturers increased their capacity for the 16th straight month in September, fresh evidence that a strengthening economy is helping to propel a U.S. industrial rebound. The Trump Administration has prioritized increasing manufacturing investment in the U.S. with tax cuts and tariffs on a range of imported goods.”

REUTERS: U.S. Steel Workers Set to Get Biggest Pay Raise in Years - Sources

“United States Steel Corp (X.N) workers are set to get the biggest wage jump in at least six years under a new deal negotiated with the company, providing early signs that gains from U.S. President Donald Trump’s clampdown on foreign imports are finally trickling down.”

MARKETWATCH: Empire State Index Points to Strong Manufacturing Activity in October

“The Empire State manufacturing index rose 2.1 points to 21.1 in October, the New York Fed said Monday. Economists had expected a reading of 20, according to a survey by Econoday. Any reading above zero indicates improving conditions.”

REUTERS: U.S. Job Openings Hit Record High of 7.14 Million

“U.S. job openings jumped to a record high in August, far outpacing a rise in hiring, suggesting that companies could be increasingly having difficulties finding qualified workers. The Labor Department said in its monthly Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey, or JOLTS, report on

Tuesday that there were 7.14 million unfilled positions in the economy in August. That was the highest level since the series started in 2000 and compared to 7.08 million vacancies in July.”

INVESTOR’S BUSINESS DAILY EDITORIAL BOARD: U.S. Job Boom Got Its JOLT From Trumponomics

“How extraordinary is this job boom? The government says that the number of jobs available has never been higher. There were 7.14 million jobs in August ready to be filled, an increase from July’s 7.1 million, which was also a record. This is the best time in decades to be seeking a job, even if you’re unemployed.”

HERITAGE FOUNDATION’S STEPHEN MOORE IN THE WASHINGTON TIMES: Trump’s North American trade triumph

“USCMA means that free trade is alive and well across the borders of North America. Congratulations to Donald Trump and his trade team for delivering an agreement that will promote prosperity across all three nations.”

TEXAS PUBLIC POLICY FOUNDATION’S CHUCK DEVORE IN FORBES: The Trump Manufacturing Jobs Boom: 10 Times Obama’s Over 21 Months

“Comparing the last 21 months of the Obama administration with the first 21 months of Trump’s, shows that under Trump’s watch, more than 10 times the number of manufacturing jobs were added.”



Please let us know if you have any questions.



Sec. Sonny Perdue ●

@SecretarySonny

Follow



Talking about reducing regulations with @Varneyco along with @MoAgriculture Dir. Chris Chinn at @WhiteHouse. @POTUS has cut needless and hindering red tape and unleashed the American economy. Great for farmers, who can concentrate on their operations rather than regulations.



“An ever-growing MAZE OF REGULATIONS, RULES, RESTRICTIONS HAS COST OUR COUNTRY trillions and trillions of dollars, millions of jobs, countless American factories, and devastated many industries.”

PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP

*“U.S. IS WORLD’S MOST
COMPETITIVE ECONOMY
FOR FIRST TIME IN A DECADE”*

JOANNA SUGDEN IN THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

WEST  WING
READS



Secretary Ryan Zinke ✓

@SecretaryZinke

Follow



I'm about to go live on @Varneyco with Southern Ute Councilman Adam Red. Talking #energydominance and deregulation





WH.GOV



Regulatory Relief Efforts Deliver \$23 Billion In Regulatory Cost Savings | The...

The Trump Administration's regulatory reform efforts have saved American families and businesses \$23 billion in Fiscal Year 2018 by getting rid of unduly burdensom...

[whitehouse.gov](https://www.whitehouse.gov)



DEREGULATORY ACTIONS LAST YEAR:

176



**RECORD
7.1 MILLION
JOB OPENINGS**

dol.gov

FREEING AMERICA'S FISHERMEN

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has taken numerous actions to promote responsible and economically beneficial fishing practices. Large areas off the coast of New England have been opened to commercial sea scallop harvesting for the first time in years. Allowing scallop harvesting in these areas will result in a net economic benefit of \$654 million dollars. NOAA has taken a series of other steps, including increasing flexibility for bluefin tuna fishermen; revising regulations for shark fisheries to improve revenue from sustainable catch; and modifying rules for recreational fishing vessels off the coast of Oregon to allow the catch of target groundfish without accidental takings of certain rockfish species. Moreover, NOAA has expanded the Fisheries Finance Program, making it easier for the next generation of fishermen to purchase fishing rights and start a business.



PRESIDENT TRUMP

\$33 BILLION
IN REGULATORY SAVINGS

SINCE TAKING OFFICE

PRESIDENT OBAMA

\$245 BILLION
IN REGULATORY COSTS

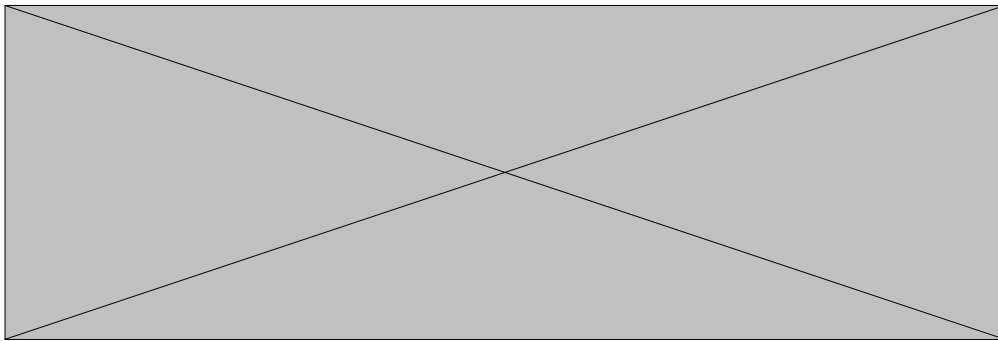
IN HIS FIRST 21 MONTHS IN OFFICE

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-10-18T21:10:08-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: 2018 National CHRISTMAS Tree Lighting Ceremony - Ticket Lottery Closes: Monday 10/22/18 at 10am
Received: 2018-10-18T21:10:42-04:00

Help make CHRISTMAS great again by celebrating the Christmas tree lighting ceremony on Wednesday November 28th.

Click this link to enter to win tickets: <https://www.recreation.gov/ticket/facility/250006>

DEADLINE TO ENTER LOTTERY: Monday 10/22/18 at 10:00am



Date: October 11, 2018

Contacts: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Katie Liming (NPS) katelyn_liming@nps.gov 202-619-7156

Alanna Sobel (NPF) asobel@nationalparks.org, 202-796-2538

Celebrate Holiday Traditions at the 2018 National Christmas Tree Lighting

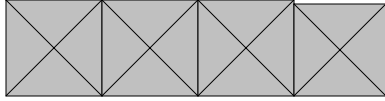
WASHINGTON – Your chance to make the 2018 National Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony part of your holiday plans is quickly approaching! Co-presented by the National Park Service and the National Park Foundation, this beloved American tradition features live musical performances and the official lighting of the National Christmas Tree on the Ellipse at President's Park (White House).

This year, the National Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony takes place on November 28. Free tickets will be awarded through an online lottery, which opens at 10 a.m. EDT on October 18 and closes at 10 a.m. EDT on October 22. To enter the lottery visit www.recreation.gov and click the 'TICKET LOTTERY' link. Those without computer access may call 877-444-6777 to enter the lottery. Lottery winners will be notified on October 29.

This year marks the 96th annual National Christmas Tree Lighting, first celebrated in 1923 by President Calvin Coolidge. The ceremony today inspires visitors and viewers from around the globe to [#FindYourPark/#EncuentraTuParque](#) during the holiday season. The National

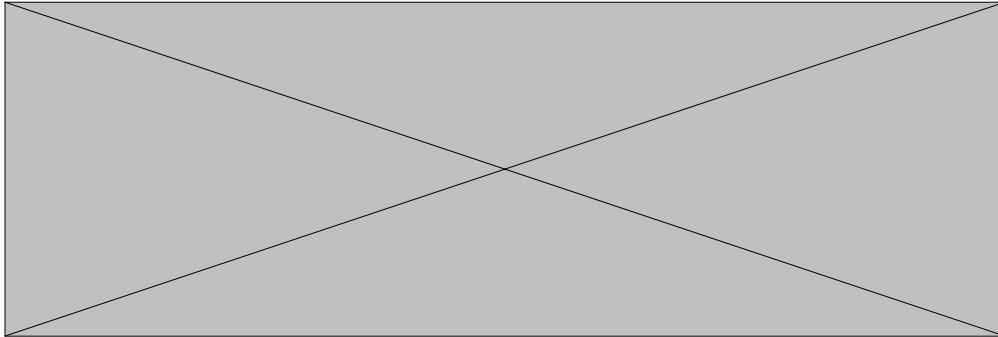
Christmas Tree is a living Colorado blue spruce from Virginia, which can be seen year-round in President's Park. Fifty-six smaller trees surrounding the National Christmas Tree will feature one-of-a-kind ornaments, representing every U.S. state, territory and the District of Columbia.

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-10-19T17:13:12-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Applauds President Trump's Memorandum on Western Water
Received: 2018-10-19T17:13:47-04:00

Making the west great again will involve making the best use of our water resources for both local economies and wildlife alike...



Date: October 19, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Applauds President Trump's Memorandum on Western Water

WASHINGTON – Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke cheered President Trump's memorandum on western water. The memorandum directs the Department of the Interior and the Department of Commerce to work together to deliver western communities the water supplies they need to irrigate millions of acres of farmland and provide water and power to millions of Americans.

“Water is the lifeblood of any thriving economy, and its importance in the West cannot be overstated,” **said Secretary Zinke**. “We want to use water in the most practical sense, and make sure our water infrastructure is in world class shape for all uses. Working to get our farms the water they need is key to rural prosperity, and I applaud President Trump for making this key issue a top priority of his administration.”

There is widespread recognition that a 'status quo' approach to the longstanding imbalances in the supply and demand of water will not be effective. Under President Trump, Secretary Zinke and Secretary Ross, federal agencies are taking a proactive approach to tackling the water supply challenges that confront western communities. This has entailed operational changes as well as specific new investments in water and power infrastructure. The active collaboration by Interior and Commerce on the areas described in the Memorandum will position western communities to have the most abundant water and power supplies possible, assuring their place in a secure and prosperous American economy.

The Memorandum directs the Interior and Commerce Departments to take a number of specific actions, including:

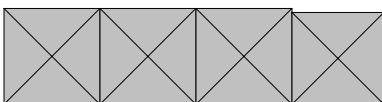
- Expediting regulatory actions essential to the operation of water infrastructure
- Improving the information and modeling capabilities related to water availability
- Expanding use of water desalination and water recycling
- Accelerating and clarifying requirements for compliance with the Endangered Species Act and National Environmental Policy Act
- Removing unnecessary burdens unique to the operation of the Columbia River Basin's water infrastructure

“For too long, the tail has wagged the dog when it comes to our infrastructure and western water,” **said Secretary Zinke**. “The environmental laws and regulations that have been in place over decades can be implemented in such a way that supports our economy while still enhancing our environment. That challenge is something that motivates President Trump and this leadership team, and we are taking decisive action.”

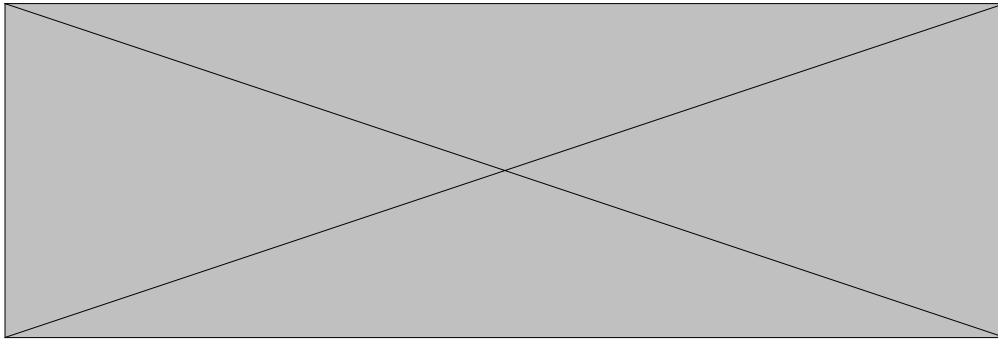
The Memorandum on Western Water will re-prioritize agency funding toward accelerated completion of regulatory actions that, in the past, have been drawn out over several years, and result in better outcomes sooner.

In addition to helping safeguard the local tourism and recreation economy, the withdrawal also conserves important habitat for migrating big game species like elk and mule deer. The conservation of these routes has been one of Zinke's priorities as reflected in Secretarial Order 3362, which was signed in January 2018.

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-10-22T19:32:31-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: U.S. Geological Survey and Colorado School of Mines announce long-term partnership
Received: 2018-10-22T19:33:00-04:00



Date: October 22, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

U.S. Geological Survey and Colorado School of Mines announce long-term partnership

CSM to be new home of USGS labs, 150 government scientists

DENVER – Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke joined Paul C. Johnson, president of Colorado School of Mines, to announce a long-term partnership between the university and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The partnership will bring more than 150 USGS scientists and their minerals research labs to the university's Golden, Colorado, campus where government scientists and Mines faculty and students will work together in a new state-of-the-art facility. Johnson and Zinke were joined at today's announcement by Senator Cory Gardner and Congressman Ed Perlmutter, as well as Mines Board of Trustees Chairman Thomas E. Jorden.

"This is a great day for the USGS and for Colorado School of Mines," **said Secretary Zinke.**

"The majority of USGS's work is on federal lands in the west, but their research is also used by government agencies, the private sector, universities, nonprofits and partners all over the world. Partnering with Colorado School of Mines, a world-class earth science research institution, and co-locating our scientists and researchers creates incredible opportunities to spur innovation and transformational breakthroughs, while also providing an incredible pool of talent from which to recruit."

"The expanded USGS presence at Mines will capitalize on our collective expertise to address the availability of mineral and energy resources, environmental challenges and geo-environmental hazards, all of which are of critical importance to national security and the economies of Colorado and the nation. It will also create an incredibly unique educational environment that

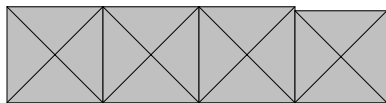
will produce the leaders we need to tackle future challenges related to exploration and development of resources here on Earth and in space, subsurface infrastructure and sustainable stewardship of the Earth,” **said Mines President Paul C. Johnson.** “We want to thank our Colorado congressional delegation, especially Rep. Ed Perlmutter and Sen. Cory Gardner, for their help in forging this exciting partnership with the USGS.”

“I’ve been working hard to convince everyone that Colorado and the School of Mines are a perfect match for the United States Geological Survey,” **said Senator Cory Gardner (R-CO).** “This move highlights the scientific leadership of our state. We will be putting USGS in a modern facility in a state where research on their core mission areas can be performed right out their back door. Their water resource research will be particularly useful to Colorado and other western states as we continue to grapple with long-term drought. I’d like to welcome Dr. Reilly and his team to the campus and thank Secretary Zinke for his leadership on this issue.”

“This new Subsurface Frontiers Building on the Mines Campus will be a tremendous asset for their faculty and students, and housing USGS staff and lab space will further cement the strong relationship between Mines, USGS and the Department of the Interior,” **said Congressman Ed Perlmutter (D-CO-7).** “This was a team effort, and I want to thank everyone for their hard work to make this happen.”

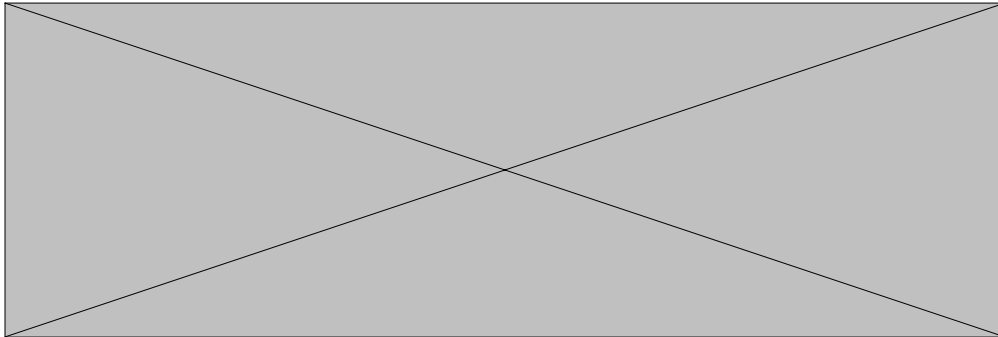
USGS and Mines, renowned for their expertise in the earth sciences and engineering, are expanding a long-standing relationship to catalyze even greater collaboration among USGS scientists and Mines faculty and students in the name of tackling the nation’s natural resource, security and environmental challenges, and exploring frontiers where the next innovations in earth and space resources, technology and engineering will occur. The relationship between Mines and the USGS goes back more than 40 years, with the USGS Geologic Hazards Science Center and its National Earthquake Information Center already calling the Mines campus home.

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-10-23T18:48:22-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Zinke Announces Public-Private Partnership bringing \$2.7 Million to Habitat Conservation of Big Game Migration Corridors and Winter Range
Received: 2018-10-23T18:48:57-04:00

Making big game migration great again!



Date: October 23, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Zinke Announces Public-Private Partnership bringing \$2.7 Million to Habitat Conservation of Big Game Migration Corridors and Winter Range

WASHINGTON –Today, U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, in partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and ConocoPhillips, announced a new NFWF \$2.7 million grant program to enhance and improve the quality of habitat in state identified, priority big-game winter range, stopover areas, and migration corridors on federal land and/or voluntary efforts on private land. This grant program is possible from funding support provided by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and ConocoPhillips. The move comes as U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke's [Secretarial Order 3362](#) is implemented to maintain and conserve migration route corridors for elk, mule deer and pronghorn antelope in 11 western states. Earlier this month, Secretary Zinke announced more than half a million dollars in grant funding for Arizona and Utah researchers to study migration corridors in their states.

"An effective strategy for conservation of western big game must include identifying and maintaining migration corridors, which is exactly why I am prioritizing research and conservation of these areas," **Secretary Zinke said**. "Our goal is healthy herds, and just as it is for many other conservation objectives, the best way to work toward this goal is a public-private partnership. The work we do today will ensure that our public lands system remains the envy of the world and that wildlife-based recreation continues to be a cornerstone of the American heritage."

“Healthy and protected migration corridors are essential to the future of a wide range of big-game species across the West,” **said Jeff Trandahl, executive director and CEO of NFWF.** “By working closely with our partners at the Department of the Interior, and with the support of ConocoPhillips, we will expand funding opportunities for conservation projects that will make a real difference for these big-game species.”

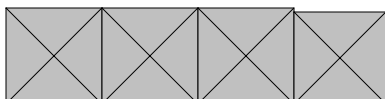
“ConocoPhillips has a long history of supporting conservation solutions that help provide lasting ecological benefits,” **said Ryan Lance, chairman and chief executive officer of ConocoPhillips.** “Through our SPIRIT of Conservation Program, ConocoPhillips is proud to support Secretarial Priority 3362 and efforts to protect critical corridor habitat essential for the sustainability of migratory animals.”

This new NFWF grant program requires that all proposals specifically address how projects will directly address state-identified priorities to conserve or restore habitat and measurably contribute to the sustainability of local and regional big-game populations. Proposals must accomplish program priorities which include:

- Restoring degraded priority winter range, stopover areas, and migration corridors by activities identified in the state plans such as removing encroaching trees from sagebrush ecosystems, rehabilitating areas damaged by fire, or treating exotic/invasive vegetation to improve the quality and value of these areas to big game and other wildlife.
- Working cooperatively with private landowners and State highway departments to achieve permissive fencing measures, including potentially modifying (via smooth wire), removing (if no longer necessary), installing if serving to direct big game movement out of harm’s way, or seasonally adapting (seasonal lay down) fencing if proven to impede movement of big game through priority migration corridors.
- Implementing measures such as conservation easements and management agreements or other actions to protect bottle necks within corridors and other areas within priority winter range or stopover areas threatened by fragmentation.
- Using other proven actions necessary to improve the habitat quality /or restore priority big-game winter range, stopover areas, or migration corridors across the West.

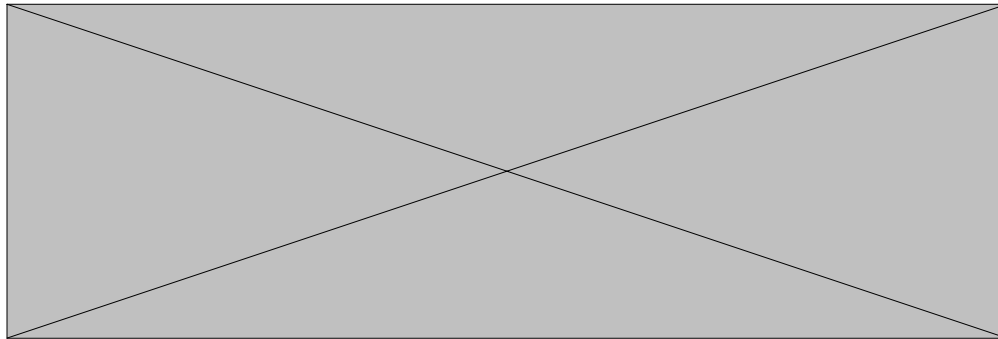
Eligible applicants include non-profit 501(c) organizations, U.S. Federal government agencies, state government agencies, local governments, municipal governments, and Indian tribes. For more information about how to apply for this grant, please visit <https://www.nfwf.org/westernmigrations>.

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From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-10-23T18:50:19-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Applauds President Trump's Nomination of Aurelia Skipwith to be Director of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Received: 2018-10-23T18:50:47-04:00

Aurelia Skipwith is Big Leauge!



Date: October 23, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Applauds President Trump's Nomination of Aurelia Skipwith to be Director of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

WASHINGTON – Last night, President Donald J. Trump announced his intent to nominate Aurelia Skipwith to be the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke applauds the nomination. Skipwith currently serves as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks in the Department of the Interior, the team responsible for ensuring the protection and stewardship of lands and waters within the national park and wildlife refuge systems. Previously, she served as Assistant Corporate Counsel at Alltech, Inc. Skipwith earned her B.S. in biology from Howard University, M.A. in molecular genetics from Purdue University, and J.D. from the University of Kentucky College of Law. Skipwith is the first African American, and third woman, to ever be nominated to the position.

"For the past year and a half while she served as a Deputy Assistant Secretary, I've come to know Aurelia Skipwith as a professional, a scientist and passionate conservationist, and I know she will be an incredible Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service," **said Secretary Zinke**. "She has helped lead some of my top priorities for getting more people to enjoy our public lands, like expanding access for hunting and fishing, recognizing Urban National Wildlife Refuges, and designating sites on the African American Civil Rights Network. I look forward to her speedy confirmation."

"I am deeply honored that President Trump has considered me for the role of Director of the Fish

and Wildlife Service," **said Aurelia Skipwith.** "During the past 18 months as Deputy Assistant Secretary, I have had the distinction to work with dedicated people of the Service to ensure the implementation of this Administration's and Secretary Zinke's policies to protect our species, increase public access, and ensure science is at forefront of our decisions. If confirmed, I look forward to the opportunity to lead the Service in achieving a conservation legacy second only to President Teddy Roosevelt."

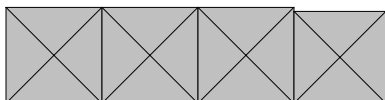
"We have enjoyed working with Aurelia over the last two years," **said Jeff Trandahl, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.** "She has brought an incredible corporate background to the workings of the Department and we look forward to her leadership joining the Fish and Wildlife Service. She has a unique understanding of the value of public-private partnerships as we work to resolve complicated environmental and wildlife issues. This perspective will bring value as we work to balance both economic and environmental drivers."

"Living in a state blessed with abundant fish and wildlife as diverse as the people who seek them out, I applaud President Trump for his nomination of Aurelia Skipwith for Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service," **said Jeff Landry, Attorney General of Louisiana.** "Aurelia has a lifetime of leadership in the private and public sectors - working to conserve, promote, and enhance our natural resources; and I am confident that she will lead the agency with honor and integrity. An accomplished attorney and experienced biology researcher, Aurelia will work diligently to enforce the laws while improving relations with local governments and sportsmen. I hope she is quickly confirmed by the Senate."

"We are excited to learn of Aurelia Skipwith's appointment to serve as the next Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service," **said Darrell Henry, Executive Director of the Western Caucus Foundation.** "Ms. Skipwith is an accomplished and capable public policy professional with the management and organization skills to effectively execute their mission. The Fish and Wildlife Service needs a leader who understands that it will take a balanced approach to meet the needs of the West – a vast expanse of bountiful wildlife and natural resources where people live, work, and recreate. I'm confident that Aurelia will be a thoughtful and effective leader for the Service."

"Deputy Assistant Secretary Skipwith has proven herself to be an effective and knowledgeable leader on a range of tough, contentious issues currently before the Department of the Interior," **said Ethan Lane, Executive Director of the Public Lands Council.** "Her steady hand will be invaluable in her new role as Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Ranchers across the country applaud the President and Secretary Zinke on this choice and look forward to working with Ms. Skipwith in her role as the Director to implement effective conservation of wildlife from coast to coast."

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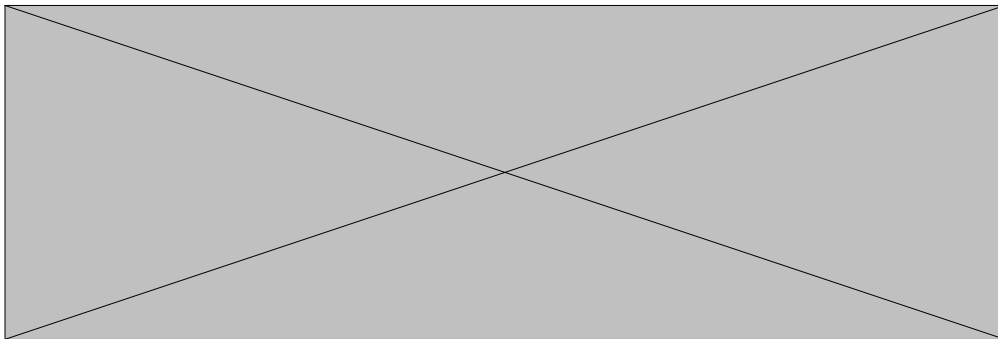
From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-10-27T13:17:40-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Civil War Era Site Camp Nelson Designated as a National Monument
Received: 2018-10-27T13:18:08-04:00

Thank you to all those that helped make today's event an absolute success and congratulations to the State of Kentucky on their first National Monument!

Here is a link with some pictures from today's ceremony:

<https://flickr.com/photos/42687493@N06/sets/72157702729029574>

Jason Funes
Special Assistant
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5541
Cell: (202) 897-7189



Date: October 27, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Civil War Era Site Camp Nelson Designated as a National Monument

Secretary Zinke celebrates designation with Camp Nelson family and activists

WASHINGTON – Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke applauded President Donald J. Trump's designation of Kentucky's Camp Nelson as a National Monument. Initially established as a Union Army supply depot and hospital, Camp Nelson became a key emancipation site and refugee camp for African American soldiers and their families during the Civil War. Located in Jessamine County, Kentucky, it was one of the largest Union Army

recruitment and training centers in the nation for African American soldiers, then known as U.S. Colored Troops. Thousands of enslaved African Americans risked their lives escaping to Camp Nelson with the hope of securing their freedom and controlling their own futures during and after the war. Today, the site remains one of the best-preserved landscapes and archaeological sites associated with Civil War era U.S. Colored Troops recruitment camps and the African American refugee experience. Camp Nelson will now be the 418th site that the National Park Service oversees.

“Camp Nelson, and all the patriots who have ties to it, holds an incredible place in America's history, and President Trump's action to designate Camp Nelson as a National Monument will ensure the ongoing protection of the site and the story,” **Secretary Zinke said**. “America's parks, battlefields and monuments tell the story of who we are as Americans. Camp Nelson was instrumental as a refuge for escaped and emancipated slaves. The Camp tells the story about Americans who risked absolutely everything they have and everyone they love to fight for their freedom, the cause of liberty and to preserve the Union. I thank the President for using the Antiquities Act as it was truly intended and I can think of no better place for his use of the Act than to recognize African Americans for the sacrifices they made for this country and for the contributions they made for all Americans freedom than by elevating Camp Nelson to National Monument status. I look forward to future generations visiting this site and learning about our nation's history.”

“We are excited to share this story with our great nation,” **said David West, Jessamine County Judge Executive**. “The historical, cultural and personal significance of Camp Nelson will inspire and enlighten visitors for generations.”

"It's an honor to have this place designated a National Monument in honor of those who fought to preserve the Union for the generations to come. These are hallowed grounds here, let it be a park, let it remain a park," **said Jim Frye, retired U.S. Navy Senior Chief and descendant of the U.S. Colored Troops including Smith Lackey (Tevis) and Jefferson Perkins, and African American refugee women**.

“Camp Nelson offers exceptional insight into the experiences of our nation's African-American soldiers during the Civil War,” **American Battlefield Trust President James Lighthizer said**. “Its landscapes and visitor facilities make vivid the struggles of these soldiers, their wives and children toward a new and uncertain freedom amid America's deadliest conflict. Preserving the site as part of America's national park system honors their sacrifices, and will help communicate the camp's dramatic military and emancipation history to new and larger audiences.”

Camp Nelson is the first national monument designation under President Trump. The designation was made with congressional and public input and involved extensive consultation with nearby private landowners.

To provide a seamless transition from county to federal ownership and management, Jessamine County and the National Park Service have entered into an agreement to provide a cooperative framework for the protection, preservation, promotion, interpretation, and maintenance of the monument. During the transition, Jessamine County will provide continued assistance with operation and maintenance for an initial period.

President Trump designated the National Monument under the Antiquities Act, which gives the President the authority to “declare by public proclamation historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated on land owned or controlled by the Federal Government to be national monuments.”

Timeline of Designation

In 2013, Camp Nelson was designated as a National Historic Landmark.

In late 2017, in a report to President Trump pursuant to Executive Order 13792, Secretary Zinke outlined that, through stakeholder engagement, Interior had identified new sites for national monument designations. One of those sites was Camp Nelson.

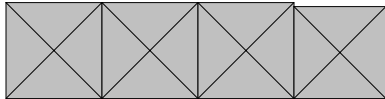
In 2018, members of the Kentucky Congressional delegation introduced the Camp Nelson Heritage National Monument Act. The Trump Administration supported the legislation.

In August 2018, Secretary Zinke announced that the National Park Service would receive public input on a possible National Monument designation for Camp Nelson. At the time, Secretary Zinke said, “An open and public process should be the standard for all National Monument designations.”

October 25, 2018, Jessamine County transferred the property to the American Battlefield Trust who donated it to the National Park Service. (Antiquities Act requires the land and objects to be Federally owned)

October 25, 2018, President Trump signed the monument proclamation declaring the site Camp Nelson National Monument and putting it under the care of the National Park Service.

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From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-11-01T16:26:39-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Update on the DOI Reorganization and announcing the Regional Facilitators for the 12 Unified Regions
Received: 2018-11-01T16:27:12-04:00

Esteemed Colleagues,

Below is an update regarding our draining the swamp policy; reorganizing the DOI for the next 100 years.

See the email below that went out to all DOI employees which contains implementation dates and next steps...

Jason Funes
Special Assistant
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5541
Cell: (202) 897-7189

----- Forwarded message -----

From: 'Announcement, DOI' via DOI_ALL_Employees_BisonConnect
<doi_all_employees@doi.gov>

Date: Thu, Nov 1, 2018 at 2:07 PM

Subject: Update on the DOI Reorganization and announcing the Regional Facilitators for the 12 Unified Regions

To:

Interior Team,

In an effort to keep everyone informed, here is an important update on the [DOI Reorganization](#).

Secretary Zinke announced that our new Unified Regional boundaries were finalized and became effective on August 22, 2018, and shared the [final map](#) with all of you on August 29, 2018. A great deal of progress has been made since the Secretary's last message. One significant achievement since then was the selection of Regional Facilitators by their peers. These Regional Facilitators are leading the Reorganization from the field, and will be seeking your input as this process proceeds. The [list of Regional Facilitators for each of the Unified Regions is available here](#). The Regional Facilitators are building teams of subject matter experts in our primary Mission Areas: Recreation, Collaborative Conservation, and Permitting; and our Support Areas: Human Resources Management, Information Technology, and Procurement of goods and services. These Unified Region teams will be comprised of experts from all of the participating bureaus present in the Region.

I held a two-day meeting with the Regional Facilitators in Washington, D.C. on October 15-16, 2018. Secretary Zinke personally met with this group during our meeting, and told them in very plain terms that while he would provide the broad direction, they will be the ones who implement the Reorganization from the ground up. We had very thoughtful discussions about questions they posed. It is important for you to know that some topics may purposefully lack specific or detailed answers for now because the leaders out in the Regions and Field Stations will be the ones who build and shape their Unified Regions. One size does not fit all. Our Unified Regions are very diverse and may take different approaches based on their unique priorities and needs. For example, some Unified Regions have significant recreation components, while other Unified Regions have significant permitting and collaborative conservation workloads, and some Unified Regions have significant workloads in all of our Mission Areas.

Please review the list of [updated Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) here](#). If you have a specific question on the Reorganization and you don't see it answered in the FAQs, please send your question to reorg@doi.gov or use the [online feedback form](#) and you will receive a response.

I want to give you a date and a timeline to consider. Secretary Zinke told the Regional Facilitators that he wants all of the Unified Regions to be “stood up” and operational by July 1, 2019. The Regional Facilitators are working hard to make happen. By July 1 of next year, each Unified Region will have an Interior Regional Director (IRD). A standard process will be used to select a career Senior Executive Service member who will serve as the IRD, and that IRD will be coordinating with the bureaus to conduct business more effectively and efficiently.

I want to thank all of you for your patience as we work through some of the administrative details of the Reorganization. I know you've heard parts and pieces of information on the Reorganization and would like more information. We are planning town hall meetings to help provide you with information and answers to your questions. Thank you for the important work you do every day. The goal is to have this Reorganization shaped by all of you. Your input is critical and will help build Unified Regions that stand the test of time. Unified Regions will make it easier for our partners and the public to work with us and ultimately, it will be easier for you to do your jobs as we transition to increased decision-making at the Regional/local level.

Let's make Reorganization a success together.

Susan Combs

Senior Advisor Exercising the Authority of the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget

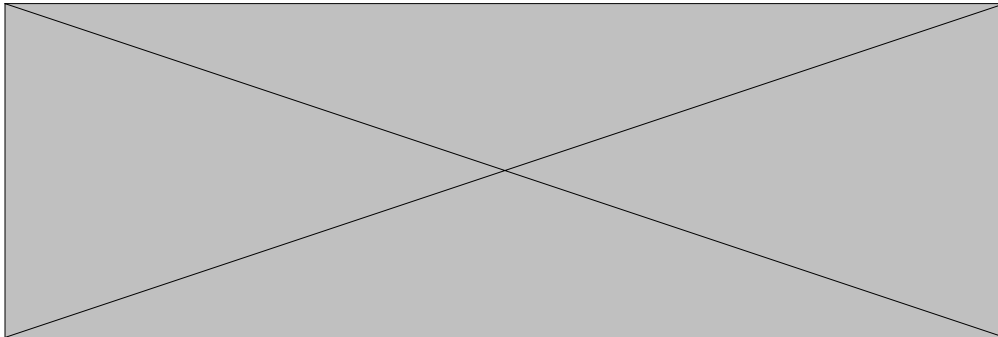
From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-11-01T17:11:29-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Interior Department Announces Second Consecutive Year of Growth in Energy Revenues as FY 2018 Disbursements Climb to \$8.93 Billion
Received: 2018-11-01T17:12:06-04:00

The Trump administration's responsible energy dominance agenda has resulted in nearly \$2 billion dollars more going back to the states!

Jason Funes
Special Assistant
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5541
Cell: (202) 897-7189

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **U.S. Department of the Interior** <interior_news@updates.interior.gov>
Date: Thu, Nov 1, 2018 at 4:04 PM
Subject: Interior Department Announces Second Consecutive Year of Growth in Energy Revenues as FY 2018 Disbursements Climb to \$8.93 Billion
To: <Jason_Funes@ios.doi.gov>



Date: November 1, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Interior Department Announces Second Consecutive Year of Growth in Energy Revenues as FY 2018 Disbursements Climb to \$8.93 Billion

Increase of \$1.82 billion is further testament to success of President Trump's strategy for American energy dominance

WASHINGTON – U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke announced today that Interior’s Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) disbursed \$8.93 billion in Fiscal Year 2018 from energy production on federal and American Indian lands and offshore areas. That figure represents an increase of \$1.82 billion over the previous year.

“President Trump’s energy dominance strategy is paying off and local communities across America are the beneficiaries,” **said Zinke**. “Trump Administration policies like reforming and reducing regulatory burdens and broadening access to the nation’s oil, gas and coal resources, have made America the largest oil and gas producer in the world. For a second year, energy disbursements are up, this year by \$1.82 billion, for a total of \$8.93 billion that will be shared with states and Tribes. This critical source of funding will be used for educational and infrastructure improvements and land and water conservation projects, and to create good-paying American jobs.”

Often the second-highest generator of federal income following taxes, energy revenue disbursements are a critical source of funding to states, American Indian Tribes and individual Indian mineral owners, as well as to the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Reclamation Fund, Historic Preservation Fund and the U.S. Treasury.

ONRR disbursed more than \$1.78 billion of the FY 2018 energy revenues to 35 states as their cumulative share of revenues collected from oil, gas and mineral production on federal lands within their borders and from offshore oil and gas tracts in federal waters adjacent to their shores. The top states receiving FY 2018 revenues were:

- **New Mexico** \$634.9 million
- **Wyoming** \$563.9 million
- **Colorado** \$112.5 million
- **Louisiana** \$91 million
- **Utah** \$76 million

In addition to state disbursements, more than \$1 billion was disbursed to American Indian tribes and individual Indian mineral owners; \$1.22 billion to the Reclamation Fund; \$893 million to the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF); over \$76 million from Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) revenues to the LWCF; \$150 million to the Historic Preservation Fund; and the remaining \$3.5 billion to the U.S. Treasury. These disbursements included a substantial increase to funds going to the LWCF and U.S. Treasury from Phase II revenue sharing under GOMESA, which took effect in FY 2017. The GOMESA portion of the LWCF disbursement -- \$76 million -- remains available until expended; the \$893 million regular LWCF distribution for FY 2018 must be used within three years. The Gulf producing states and coastal political subdivisions will receive their disbursements of FY 2018 qualified revenues in FY 2019, as required by the legislation.

The revenues disbursed to the 32 federally recognized American Indian tribes and nearly 30,000 individual Indian mineral owners represent 100 percent of the revenues received for energy and mineral production activities on Indian lands. Most revenues are disbursed through the Interior Department’s Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Office of Special Trustee for

American Indians. Some Indian tribes have direct payment authorization from the Department of Interior and receive their energy and mineral revenues directly through an established lockbox deposit account. Tribes use these revenues to develop infrastructure, provide healthcare and education, and support other critical community development programs, such as senior centers, public safety projects, and youth initiatives.

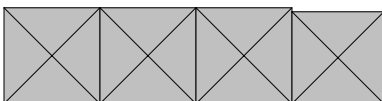
The \$8.93 billion disbursed in FY 2018 is \$1.82 billion higher than the \$7.11 billion the Department disbursed in FY 2017. The increase in disbursements is primarily attributed to higher oil prices and demand caused by an improved economy, expedited permitting, streamlined regulations, and the growth in exports.

All federal, non-renewable energy revenues are collected, accounted for, analyzed, audited and disbursed by ONRR from energy and mineral leases and other monies owed for the use of public resources on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf and onshore federal and American Indian lands. Since 1982, ONRR has disbursed more than \$302 billion in mineral leasing revenues. ONRR makes most disbursements on a monthly basis from the royalties, rents and bonuses it collects from energy and mineral companies operating on federal lands and waters.

A complete list of states receiving revenues and FY 2018 disbursement data will be available on the Natural Resources Revenue Data portal located at <https://revenuedata.doi.gov/>.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1964 invests in projects that help strengthen communities, preserve American history and protect national endowments of lands and waters. The Reclamation Fund, which Congress established in 1902, funds the development of irrigation projects on arid and semiarid lands of the 17 western states. The Historic Preservation Fund provides matching grants to state and Tribal historic preservation offices to pay for surveys of historic resources, training, nominations to the National Register of Historic Places, and preservation grants to local jurisdictions.

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To: Benita Dodd[benitadodd@georgiapolicy.org]; Brent Mead[brent.mead@gmail.com]; Jennifer Butler[butler@spn.org]; Christopher Summers[csummers@mdpolicy.org]; Judy Sanchez[jsanchez@ussugar.com]; Aaron Stover[astover@heartland.org]; Adam Houser[ahouser@cfactcampus.org]; Adrian Moore[adrian.moore@reason.org]; Alan Carlin[(b)(6)]; Alan Smith[asmith@rstreet.org]; Alex Beehler[(b)(6)]; Allan Brown[allanbrown@starpower.net]; Allen Benjamin Johnson III[allen@cagw.org]; Amos Eno[aeno@landcan.org]; Amy Cooke[amy@i2i.org]; Anne Mitchell[mainewoodscoalition@gmail.com]; Anthony Livanios[livanios@usenergystream.com]; Anthony Okonmah[(b)(6)]; Ashlee Landess[ashley@scpolicycouncil.org]; Ashley Varner[avarner@alec.org]; Barry Worthington[bworthington@usea.org]; Bartlett Cleland[bcleland@alec.org]; Becki Grey[bgray@johnlocke.org]; Benjamin Zycher[Benjamin.Zycher@aei.org]; Bette Grande[bette@bettegrande.com]; Bill Jensen[bill.jensen@mmacusa.org]; Bill Sproul[(b)(6)]; Bob Carlstrom[bob@carlstromgroup.com]; Bob Coakley[(b)(6)]; Bonner Cohen[brcohen1@ix.netcom.com]; Bonnie Wharton[(b)(6)]; Brad Viator[bviator@eei.org]; Brandon Arnold[barnold@ntu.org]; Brent Gardner[bgardner@afphq.org]; Brett Healy[bhealy@maciverinstitute.com]; Brian Blake[bblake@hudson.org]; Brian Seasholes[(b)(6)]; Brian Yablonski[brian@perc.org]; Bruce Courtright[bcourtright@sisqtel.net]; Bruce Fogerty[bruce.fogerty@earthx.org]; Cameron Smith[csmith@rstreet.org]; Camille Ferguson[aianta.director@gmail.com]; Candice Boyer[cboyer@atr.org]; Caren Cowan[nmcga@nmagriculture.org]; Carol Park[cpark@mdpolicy.org]; Caroline Kitchens[ckitchens@rstreet.org]; Carrie Annand[carrie@usabiomass.org]; Charles 'Tee' Rowe[tee.rowe@americassbdc.org]; Charles Hernick[chernick@citizensfor.com]; Charles Herring[charles@oann.com]; Charles Rigler[(b)(6)]; Chris Myers[cmyers@mercatus.gmu.edu]; Christian Robey[crobey@mrc.org]; Christine Hall[christine.hall@cei.org]; Christopher Horner[chorner@cei.org]; Chuck Cushman[alra@pacifier.com]; Chuck DeVore[cdevore@texaspolicy.com]; Clark Pearson[(b)(6)]; Colleen Newman[colleen@nawc.com]; Craig Richardson[richardson@eelegal.org]; Craig Rucker[crucker@cfact.org]; Dan Bosch[dbosch@americanactionforum.org]; Daniel J Erspamer[daniel@pelicaninstitute.org]; Daniel Peterson[dpeterson@jamesmadison.org]; Daren Bakst[daren.bakst@heritage.org]; Dave Wallace[dave.wallace@fairenergyfoundation.org]; David Brown[dbrown@americaoutdoors.org]; David Kreutzer[david.kreutzer@heritage.org]; David Reis[reis@davidreis.org]; David Stevenson[(b)(6)]; David Tenny[dtenny@nafoalliance.org]; David Wetmore[dwetmore@carpiclay.com]; David Williams[davidwilliams@protectingtaxpayers.org]; David Zayas (NHA)[David@hydro.org]; Derrick Hollie[dhollie@reachingamerica.org]; Dipka Bhambhani[dbhambhani@usea.org]; Douglas Faulkner[faulkner@leatherstockingllc.com]; Dunlop, Becky[bndunlop@heritage.org]; Dye, Rep. Mary[Mary.Dye@leg.wa.gov]; Ed Tillett[etillett@waterwayguide.com]; Eli Lehrer[elehrer@rstreet.org]; Elizabeth Wright[ewright@cagw.org]; Ellen Hopkins[ehopkins@nmma.org]; Ellen Weaver[ellen@palmettopromise.org]; Eric Carleson[ecarleson@calog.com]; Eric S Holderby[eric.holderby@halliburton.com]; Erica Crocker[ecrocker@nmma.org]; Erin Osting[elosting@marathonpetroleum.com]; Eunie Smith[alaeagle@charter.net]; Folkers Eduardo Rojas[(b)(6)]; Forest Thigpen[thigpen@mspolicy.org]; Francis Deluca[francis.deluca@nccivitas.org]; Frank Reigelman[frank.reigelman@scouting.org]; Fred Birnbaum[fred@idahofreedom.net]; Fred H. Hutchison[fhh@Ingallies.com]; Fred Oladeinde[foladeinde@democracy-africa.org]; Gail Griffin[(b)(6)]; Gene Therriault[gtherriault@agdc.us]; Genevieve McCarthy[genevieve.mccarthy@ntu.org]; Gerald Hillier[gerryhillier@quadstate.org]; Grace Morgan[grace@protectingtaxpayers.org]; Grant Kidwell[gkidwell@alec.org]; Greg Walcher[(b)(6)]; Gregg Keller[gregg@atlasstrategygroup.com]; Grover Norquist[gnorquist@atr.org]; Gustavo Portela[gjp@hispanicleadershipfund.org]; Hannah Downey[hannah@perc.org]; Harper Lanier[harper.lanier@cei.org]; Heather Noyes[hnoyes@mainepolicy.org]; Heather Reams[hreams@citizensfor.com]; Howard Hutchinson[aznmc@earthlink.net]; Iain Murray[iain.murray@cei.org]; Isaac Orr[Iorr@heartland.org]; Jack Spencer[Jack.Spencer@heritage.org]; Jake Zachry[jzachry@kecorp.us]; James Connaughton[jim@nautilusdt.com]; James Franko[james.franko@kansaspolicy.org]; James Lucier[james.lucier@capalphadc.com]; James

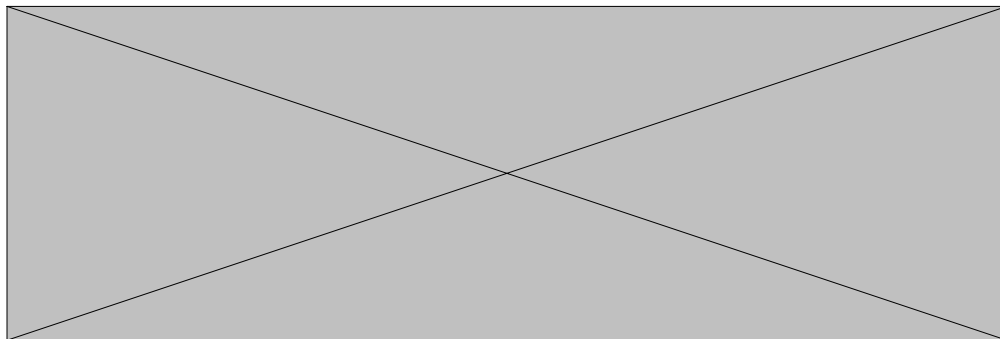
Taylor[JTaylor@heartland.org]; Jameson Taylor[taylor@mspolicy.org]; Jami Bayles [REDACTED]; Jane Luxton[jluxton@clarkhill.com]; Janine Hansen[director@nevadafamilies.org]; Jay Homnick[jhomnick@londoncenter.org]; Jean Gould[jgould@pesa.org]; Jeff Leahey[jeff@hydro.org]; Jeff Osanka[efficientenergy@yahoo.com]; Jeff Vanderslice[jvanderslice@cato.org]; Jennifer Fielder[jennifer@americanlandscouncil.org]; Jerry Usselman[jerry.usselman@gmail.com]; Joe Horvath[joe@yankeeinstitute.org]; Joe Martori[joe.martori@mmacusa.org]; John Charles[john@cascadepolicy.org]; John Hines[john.hines@oann.com]; John Nelson[john@schoeningstrategies.com]; John Nothdruff[john@heartland.org]; John Paulton[john.paulton@familypolicyalliance.com]; John Yoo [REDACTED]; Jon Russell[jrussell@alec.org]; Jon Sanders[jsanders@johnlocke.org]; Jonathan Haines[jonathan@sparkfreedom.org]; Jonathan Irish [REDACTED]; Jonathan Shuffield[jshuffield@naco.org]; Jonathan Small[jonathan@ocpathink.org]; Jonathan Williams[jwilliams@alec.org]; Jorge Lima[jlima@thelibreinitiative.com]; Joseph Reddan [REDACTED]; Josiah Neeley[jneeley@rstreet.org]; Judd Swift[jswift@synfuelsus.com]; Judith Blanchard [REDACTED]; Julia Seymour[jseymour@mrc.org]; Julian Canete[canetej@cahcc.com]; Julian Morris[julian.morris@reason.org]; Jura, Jennifer L.[JJura@eei.org]; Karla Jones[kjones@alec.org]; Katherine Telford[katherine.telford@aei.org]; Kathleen Hartnett White[khwhite@texaspolicy.com]; Kathleen O'Hearn[ohearn@spn.org]; Kathy McDonald [REDACTED]; Katie Kerschner[kkerschner@texaspolicy.com]; Katie Tubb[katie.tubb@heritage.org]; Ken Cuccinelli [REDACTED]; Ken Green[ken.green@fraserinstitute.org]; Kenneth Artz [REDACTED]; Kenny Stein[kstein@ierdc.org]; Kevin Mooney [REDACTED]; Kim Crockett[kim.crockett@americanexperiment.org]; Kim Husky[kim@clamandoyster.com]; Kristine Telford[KTelford@eei.org]; Kwame Canty[kcanty@eei.org]; Larry Alexander[lalexander@sisqtel.net]; Larry D. Rubin[l.rubin@usa.net]; Lauren Bouton[lbouton@rstreet.org]; Linda Yasinsac[lyasinsac@60plus.org]; Lindsey Burke[lindsey.burke@heritage.org]; Logan Pike[pike@heartland.org]; Lyle Laverty[Lyle@thelavertygroup.com]; Lynn Taylor[LTaylor@virginia institute.org]; Mac Zimmerman[mzimmerman@afphq.org]; Manuel Rosales[mrosales@thelatinocoalition.com]; Marc Morano[morano@climatedepot.com]; Margo Thorning[mthorning@accf.org]; Maria Thorbourne[mariat@stanford.edu]; Mario Lopez[mhl@hispanicleadershipfund.org]; Mark Truax[truax@pacwestcom.com]; Marlo Lewis[marlo.lewis@cei.org]; Marlon Bateman[bateman@stanford.edu]; Marnee Benson[marnee.benson@burningman.org]; Martha Boneta[Martha@marthaboneta.com]; Mary Toman [REDACTED]; Matt Gagnon[mgagnon@mainepolicy.org]; Matt Weibel[mweibel@cato.org]; Matthew Anderson[Matt@sifreedom.org]; Matthew Atwood[matthew.atwood@heritage.org]; Matthew Glans[mglans@heartland.org]; Matthew Kandrach[matthew@caseforconsumers.org]; Mattie Duppler[mattie@mattieduppler.com]; Megan Ingram[mingram@texaspolicy.com]; Michael Bowman[mbowman@alec.org]; Michael Rains [REDACTED]; Michael Sandoval[Michael.Sandoval@fticonsulting.com]; Michael Swenson[michael@swenstrat.com]; Michi Iljazi[michi@conservative.org]; Mike Howell[Mike.Howell@heritage.org]; Mike Jayne[Mjayne@mercatus.gmu.edu]; Mike Palicz[mpalicz@atr.org]; Mike Thompson [REDACTED]; Myron Ebell[myron.ebell@cei.org]; Naughton, Janet[Janet.Naughton@heritage.org]; Naz Bedrossian[nbedrossian@bastiontechnologies.com]; Nick Loris[nick.loris@heritage.org]; Nick Murray[nmurray@mainepolicy.org]; Nicole Dicocco[ndicocco@capitalkeys.com]; Nicole Vasilaros[nvasilaros@nmma.org]; Parker Jeppesen[Parker.Jeppesen@growthopportunity.org]; Patrick Gleason[pgleason@atr.org]; Patrick Hedger[phedger@freedomworks.org]; Paul Bachman[pbachman@beaconhill.org]; Paul Blair[pblair@atr.org]; Paul Driessen [REDACTED]; Paul Gessing[pgessing@riograndefoundation.org]; Paul Phillips[Phillips@pacwestcom.com]; Peggy Livanios[peggy.livanios@usenergystream.com]; Pete Hutchinson[pete.hutch@landmarklegal.org]; Phil Kerpen[phil@americancommitment.org]; Pinar Cebi[pcebi@accf.org]; Rachel Kopec [REDACTED]; Randy Eminger[reminger@tepn.org]; Randy Parker[randy.parker@fbfs.org]; Randy Simmons[randy.simmons@usu.edu]; Ray Haupt[rhaupt@sisqtel.net]; Rich Powell[powell@clearpath.org]; Richard Casale[richard.casale@heritage.org]; Rick Larsen[rick@sifreedom.org]; Rick Manning[rmanning@getliberty.org]; RJ Smith[rjsmith@cei.org]; Rob Roy

Ramey[(b)(6)]; Rob Sisson[rsisson@conservamerica.org]; Robert Bluey[robert.bluey@heritage.org]; Robert Bradley[rbradley@iertx.org]; Robert Bryce[robert@robertbryce.com]; Robert D. Thompson[(b)(6)]; Robert Henneke[rhenneke@texaspolicy.com]; Robin Bowen[rbowen@mercatus.gmu.edu]; Ross Marchand[Ross@protectingtaxpayers.org]; Rowena Itchon[ritchon@pacificresearch.org]; Sal Nuzzo[snuzzo@jamesmadison.org]; Scott Harn[editor@icmj.com]; Scott Walter[swalter@capitalresearch.org]; Shawn Regan[shawn@perc.org]; Sheldon Mudd[smudd@nnrda.com]; Shoshanna Weissman[sweissmann@rstreet.org]; Spencer Chretien[schretien@cagw.org]; Spencer Nelson[nelson@clearpath.org]; Stephen Richards[srichards@sarn.us]; Sterling Burnett[hsburnett@heartland.org]; Steve Milloy[(b)(6)]; Steve Pociask[steve@theamericanconsumer.org]; Steven Allen[sallen@capitalresearch.org]; Susan Lascolette[SusanL@regan.com]; Tabitha Walter[Tabitha@eagleforum.org]; Terry Anderson[(b)(6)]; Thomas Pyle[tpyle@energydc.org]; Thomas Schatz[tschatz@cagw.org]; Thomas Williams[twilliams@rpsea.org]; Todd Davidson[davidson@spn.org]; Todd Gaziano[TGaziano@pacificlegal.org]; Todd Myers[tmyers@washingtonpolicy.org]; Tommy Binion[Thomas.Binion@heritage.org]; Tracee Bentley[bentleyt@api.org]; Vicki Dixon[(b)(6)]; Wagner, Bridgett[bridgett.wagner@heritage.org]; Wendy Shepherd[wshepherd@synfuelsus.com]; Wilhelm Meierling[wmeierling@alec.org]; William Derr[(b)(6)]; William Murray[wmmurray@rstreet.org]; William Perry Pendley[wppendley@mountainstateslegal.com]; William Yeatman[wyeatman@cei.org]

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-11-15T10:22:40-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Economic Impact of Public Lands Increases by \$400 Million in First Year Under President Trump
Received: 2018-11-15T10:23:17-05:00

Hopefully next Congress's oversight hearings will highlight the economic boom created by President Trump and Secretary Zinke's focus on being a better business partner with communities surrounding public lands...

Then again maybe not... so let's work together to share the positive news about our growing economy with the American people!!



Date: November 14, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Economic Impact of Public Lands Increases by \$400 Million in First Year Under President Trump

Jobs & Economic Output Jump Thanks In Part To American Energy Dominance & Infrastructure Projects

WASHINGTON – U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke today released the Department's Economic Report for Fiscal Year 2017 which shows that for the first time in several years, economic growth and jobs supported by federal lands both increased. According to the report, under President Donald J. Trump and Secretary Zinke's first year in office, the economic output of Interior's federal lands and resources increased by \$400 million to \$292 billion and the number of jobs supported increased by 230,000 to 1.8 million jobs. Gains are due to increased energy production and revenues, regulatory reform, changes to land uses and access, infrastructure projects, and other factors.

“Anyone who grew up in the West can tell you that federal lands are working lands and, if managed properly, they support jobs and economic activity for communities in industries like recreation, energy, agriculture, and mining,” **said Secretary Zinke**. “The same is true for coastal areas like the Gulf of Mexico and Alaska. I grew up in Montana where most of the men in my community worked in timber, mining, or agriculture. Rural communities relied on federal lands for jobs and resources. But for many years, much of the land and water was locked up and not available for use. Not anymore, not under President Trump. This report shows that thanks to smart regulatory reforms and increased access, federal lands and waters are once again increasing economic output and creating jobs.”

In FY2017, Interior increased federal energy disbursements by nearly \$1 billion. Interior-managed lands and waters produced 869 million barrels of crude oil, 4.6 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, and 347 million tons of coal. Oil, gas and coal produced from Interior lands and waters supported an estimated \$134 billion in economic output and an estimated 676,000 jobs.

In FY2017, Interior reduced the semi-annual regulatory agenda by more than 50-percent and initiated 21 deregulatory actions, resulting in a savings to the economy of \$3.8 billion over time.

National parks, refuges, and other public lands managed by Interior hosted an estimated 483 million recreational visits in FY 2017—up from 473 million in FY 2016. These visits supported an estimated \$52 billion in economic output and an estimated 418,000 jobs nationwide.

Additionally, Secretary Zinke increased deferred maintenance dollars and approved \$256 million in funding to rebuild critical national park infrastructure supporting both construction jobs and higher visitation. The NPS completed over \$650 million in maintenance and repair work in Fiscal Year 2017.

States with the largest contribution to GDP, economic output, and employment supported include the following:

- Wyoming - \$12.72 billion in contribution to GDP, \$20.78 in economic output, and 99,898 in jobs
- Texas - \$11.27 billion in contribution to GDP, \$19.57 in economic output, and 112,003 in jobs
- New Mexico - \$10.12 billion in contribution to GDP, \$15.47 in economic output, and 86,264 in jobs

- California - \$5.73 billion in contribution to GDP, \$9.96 billion in economic output, and 67,985 in jobs
- Colorado - \$5.6 billion in contribution to GDP, \$9.48 billion in economic output, and 57,068 in jobs

The report is paired with a web-based data visualization tool that lets the user customize the contribution analysis by bureau, activity or State. You can access the tool and download the full economic report, with a discussion of the analysis and methodology applied at <https://doi.sciencebase.gov/doidv/>.

FY2018 Prospects High

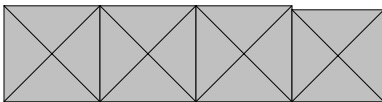
The economic impact of Interior's public lands under President Trump and Secretary Zinke is expected to show increases in FY2018 as well due to expanded access to federal lands, regulatory reform, increased energy production, and more projects being approved for development.

Fiscal Year 2018 regulatory reform actions have resulted in a savings of roughly \$2.5 billion in net present value.

FY2018 energy disbursements totaled \$8.93 billion, which is an increase of nearly \$2 billion since FY17 and an increase of \$3 billion since Obama's last year in office. Production and revenues increased and the Department saw record-breaking sales. The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) third-quarter oil and gas lease sale in New Mexico broke all previous records by grossing nearly \$1 billion in bonus bids for 142 parcels. Thanks to Federal energy leases, the State of New Mexico has a nearly \$2 billion budget surplus.

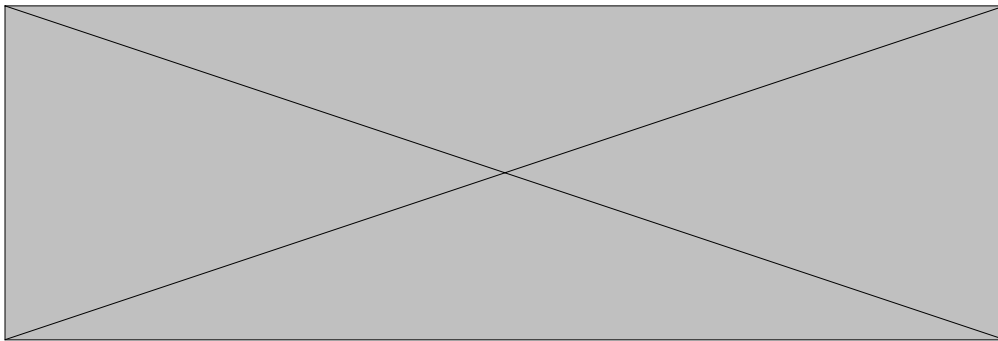
Additionally, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported an increase in 60,000 mining and logging jobs in FY2018 under the Trump Administration.

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From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-11-30T16:10:00-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: New Analysis Shows 2018 California Wildfires Emitted as Much Carbon Dioxide as an Entire Year's Worth of Electricity
Received: 2018-11-30T16:18:50-05:00

Better forest management can help avoid the size and overall damage of many of our nation's wildfires...



Date: November 30, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

New Analysis Shows 2018 California Wildfires Emitted as Much Carbon Dioxide as an Entire Year's Worth of Electricity

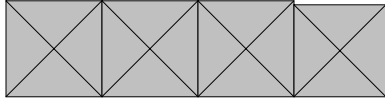
Secretary Zinke calls for better forest management

WASHINGTON - U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke today announced that according to data analyzed by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the 2018 wildfire season in California is estimated to have released emissions equivalent to roughly 68 million tons of carbon dioxide. This number equates to about 15 percent of all California emissions, and it is on par with the annual emissions produced by generating enough electricity to power the entire state for a year. The recent Camp and Woolsey fires have produced emissions equivalent to roughly 5.5 million tons of carbon dioxide.

"We know that wildfires can be deadly and cost billions of dollars, but this analysis from the U.S. Geological Survey also shows just how bad catastrophic fires are for the environment and for the public's health," **said Secretary Zinke**. "There's too much dead and dying timber in the forest, which fuels these catastrophic fires. Proper management of our forests, to include small prescribed burns, mechanical thinning, and other techniques, will improve forest health and reduce the risk of wildfires, while also helping curb the carbon emissions. The intensity and range of these fires indicate we can no longer ignore proper forest management. We can and must do a better job of protecting both the forests and the communities on the urban-wildland interface. Leaving forests unmanaged is no longer a safe option."

These preliminary estimates were produced using provisional data from this year's wildfire season. The USGS compared that to the emissions produced by California's electricity (imported and produced in-state) during the entire year of 2016, which was roughly 76 million tons according to data provided by the California Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory.

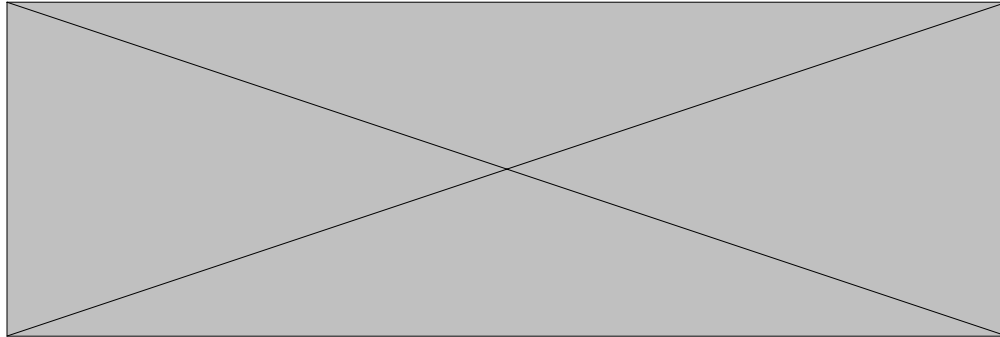
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From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-12-06T13:48:55-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: USGS Identifies Largest Continuous Oil and Gas Resource Potential Ever Assessed
Received: 2018-12-06T13:57:57-05:00

The golden era of American Energy Dominance is upon us!!

Please feel free to share this news far and wide!



Date: December 6, 2018

Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

USGS Identifies Largest Continuous Oil and Gas Resource Potential Ever Assessed

Estimates Include 46.3 Billion Barrels of Oil, 281 Trillion Cubic feet of Natural Gas, and 20 Billion Barrels of Natural Gas Liquids in Texas and New Mexico's Wolfcamp Shale and Bone Spring Formation

WASHINGTON - Today, the U.S. Department of the Interior announced the Wolfcamp Shale and overlying Bone Spring Formation in the Delaware Basin portion of Texas and New Mexico's Permian Basin province contain an estimated mean of 46.3 billion barrels of oil, 281 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, and 20 billion barrels of natural gas liquids, according to an assessment by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). This estimate is for continuous (unconventional) oil, and consists of undiscovered, technically recoverable resources.

"Christmas came a few weeks early this year," **said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke**. "American strength flows from American energy, and as it turns out, we have a lot of American energy. Before this assessment came down, I was bullish on oil and gas production in the United States. Now, I know for a fact that American energy dominance is within our grasp as a nation."

"In the 1980s, during my time in the petroleum industry, the Permian and similar mature basins were not considered viable for producing large new recoverable resources. Today, thanks to advances in technology, the Permian Basin continues to impress in terms of resource potential. The results of this most recent assessment and that of the Wolfcamp Formation in the Midland

Basin in 2016 are our largest continuous oil and gas assessments ever released,” **said Dr. Jim Reilly, USGS Director.** “Knowing where these resources are located and how much exists is crucial to ensuring both our energy independence and energy dominance.”

Although the USGS has previously assessed conventional oil and gas resources in the Permian Basin province, this is the first assessment of continuous resources in the Wolfcamp shale and Bone Spring Formation in the Delaware Basin portion of the Permian. Oil and gas companies are currently producing oil here using both traditional vertical well technology and horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing.

The Wolfcamp shale in the Midland Basin portion of the Permian Basin province was assessed separately in 2016, and at that time it was the largest assessment of continuous oil conducted by the USGS. The Delaware Basin assessment of the Wolfcamp Shale and Bone Spring Formation is more than two times larger than that of the Midland Basin. The Permian Basin province includes a series of basins and other geologic formations in West Texas and southern New Mexico. It is one of the most productive areas for oil and gas in the entire United States.

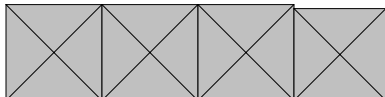
“The results we’ve released today demonstrate the impact that improved technologies such as hydraulic fracturing and directional drilling have had on increasing the estimates of undiscovered, technically recoverable continuous (i.e., unconventional) resources,” **said Walter Guidroz, Program Coordinator of the USGS Energy Resources Program.**

Undiscovered resources are those that are estimated to exist based on geologic knowledge and already established production, while technically recoverable resources are those that can be produced using currently available technology and industry practices. Whether or not it is profitable to produce these resources has not been evaluated.

USGS is the only provider of publicly available estimates of undiscovered technically recoverable oil and gas resources of onshore lands and offshore state waters. The USGS Delaware Basin Wolfcamp shale and Bone Spring Formation assessment was undertaken as part of a nationwide project assessing domestic petroleum basins using standardized methodology and protocols.

The new assessment of the Delaware Basin Wolfcamp shale may be found online. To find out more about USGS energy assessments and other energy research, please visit the USGS Energy Resources Program website.

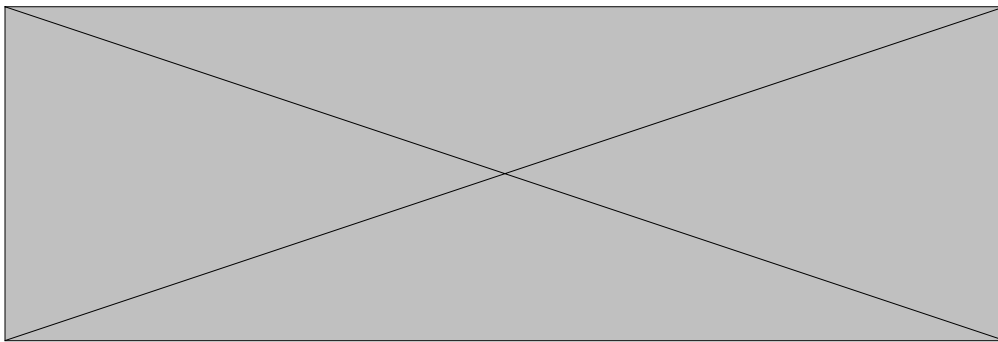
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From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-12-11T10:29:37-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: **See Accomplished List Attached** Another Conservation Win: Sec. Zinke adds 960 acres of prime wildlife habitat to Montana BLM lands
Received: 2018-12-11T10:30:17-05:00
[DOI FY18 Accomplishments.pdf](#)

The Trump Administration and Secretary Zinke continue to build an unparalleled conservation legacy. No one cares more about protecting the environment and enabling multiple use access to public lands, than President Trump and Secretary Zinke.

****See the attached list of our FY18 Accomplishments as you work on your end of the year review of Trump & Zinke's 2018****



Date: December 11, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Another Conservation Win: Secretary Zinke adds 960 acres of prime wildlife habitat to Montana BLM lands

WASHINGTON – Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke announced the Bureau of Land Management has acquired lands from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation for \$1,025,000 within the Little Sheep Creek watershed in Montana. This acquisition will add nearly 1,000 acres of prime wildlife habitat and improve access to 2,600 acres of adjacent public lands. Since his first day in office, Secretary Zinke has prioritized improving the habitat of iconic big game species and access to public lands for sportsmen and women.

"Elk and mule deer are some of the most iconic species of the American West, and in order to maintain healthy herds, we are putting a focus on healthy habitat through targeted acquisitions and funding research on migration corridors," **said Secretary Zinke.** "These nearly 1,000 acres join millions of other acres of land we have opened up for greater hunting and fishing access. Thanks to this partnership, we are able better conserve the species and increase access for sportsmen and women. It wouldn't have been possible without the Rocky Mountain Elk

Foundation."

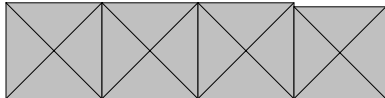
"Little Sheep Creek is BLM and RMEF's latest example of how the Land and Water Conservation Fund benefits the American people," **said Blake Henning, RMEF Chief Conservation Officer.** "We appreciate the private landowners, and the BLM for recognizing the exceptional elk and mule deer winter range that this property hosts, and the value of opening and improving access to public lands for future generations."

The 960-acre parcel is located in the Beaverhead Valley, five miles southwest of Lima, and about 45 minutes south of Dillon. The parcel is bordered on three sides by land managed by the BLM and the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest.

The property features high-quality winter range habitat for as many as 700 elk and 450 mule deer. It also supports moose, antelope, black bear, wolverine, Greater Sage-Grouse and other wildlife. Both West Fork Little Sheep Creek and Straight Creek cross the immediate landscape providing vital riparian habitat for fish and other aquatic species. The property also contains cabins, which the BLM may turn into year-round rental opportunities for the public.

This projects is one of several collaborations involving the Montana/Dakotas BLM and the RMEF. Over the years, the two partners have worked together on 75 habitat stewardship projects, benefiting more than 97,000 acres for elk and a diverse array of other species; as well as six additional lands projects that protected more than 25,000 acres of wildlife habitat, while improving public access to nearly 85,000 acres of surrounding public lands.

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The Department of the Interior under the first two years of President Trump & Secretary Zinke

Pursuing Bold Regulatory Relief: Interior is a top performer when it comes to cutting red tape and regulatory costs.

- 
- \$6+ billion in regulatory relief since taking office (\$2.5 billion FY2018; \$3.8 billion FY2017).
 - Reduced Interior's semi-annual regulatory agenda cut by over 50% through cutting or reforming dozens of burdensome regulations.
 - Scrapped Obama-era Waste Prevention Rule saving taxpayers about \$1.5 billion.
 - Revising Well Control and Production Safety Systems Rules.
 - In the process of reforming the Endangered Species Act's use of "critical habitat."
 - Repealed the Stream Protection Rule.
 - Expedited permitting and streamlined the process for infrastructure and energy projects.
 - Reduced permitting timeframes under the National Environmental Policy Act to one year and 150 pages – previously, NEPA Environmental Impact Statements could take years and run thousands of pages.
 - Crafted a regulatory structure that helped create 60,000 new mining jobs in 2018.
 - Signed a Secretarial Order (S.O. 3368) to end the practice of "Sue and Settle" litigation.
 - Revised the government's interpretation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act on the topic of incidental take, curbing regulatory overreach.

Achieving American Energy Dominance: Thanks to stronger markets, regulatory reform, and a bold energy policy, the United States is the global leader in oil and gas production and federal energy revenues have increased by \$3 billion since President Trump and Secretary Zinke took office.

- 2018 was the second straight year of growth in federal energy revenues from production on federal and American Indian lands and offshore areas.

- FY2017 – \$7.11 billion, an increase of nearly \$1 billion over President Obama’s last year in office.
- FY2018 – \$8.93 Billion an increase of nearly \$2 billion since FY17 and an increase of \$3 billion since Obama’s last year in office.
- Interior is tapping into Alaska’s energy potential, opening up the 1002 section of the ANWR (as part of the President’s historic tax cuts bill)
- Approved the first-ever oil and gas production facility in federal waters off Alaska.
- Interior held a record-shattering oil and gas lease sale on Federal lands in New Mexico grossing nearly \$1 billion; the two-day sale brought in more revenue than all federal onshore oil and gas sales in 2017 combined.
- Cut the time it takes to approve projects on Federal lands by almost 100 days. (from 260 days in FY 2017 to 170 days in FY18 for our combined AFMSS 1 and 2 permits, per BLM).
- Scrapped the Obama-era moratorium on oil and gas drilling on federal lands.
- Rescinded the Hydraulic Fracturing Rule.
- Crafted a regulatory environment that helped create 60,000 new mining jobs in 2018.
- Initiated a new Offshore Oil and Natural Gas leasing plan to unleash the power of the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf.
- Announced first-ever record of Joint Federal Decision, executing on President Trump’s One Federal Decision vision.
- Streamlining approval for offshore wind energy projects and opening up more areas to offshore wind.

Keeping America Safe: The Department of the Interior oversees 40-percent of the land on the U.S.-Mexico border. Previous administrations have left this mostly unpatrolled and created a dangerous corridor for illegal activity. The Department is also home to more than 4,000 federal law enforcement officials. Secretary Zinke and President Trump are utilizing these officers to their full potential, and ensuring that Interior puts the safety of the American people first in a variety of ways.

- In May 2018, Zinke deployed a surge of DOI law enforcement officers to the U.S.-Mexico border to support President Trump's mission to secure the border. This resulted in a nearly 4,000-percent increase in arrests of illegal aliens from the Obama Administration to the Trump Administration's new law enforcement posture.
 - May - October 2016: total of 126 illegal aliens apprehended and turned over to the USBP by DOI LEO's.
 - May - October 2018: Total of 4,010 illegal aliens apprehended and turned over to the USBP by DOI LEO's. (Surge period)
 - Since the beginning of the surge efforts, DOI law enforcement have recorded the following:
 - 4,000+ arrests
 - 220+ turned around were coming into the U.S., but turned around when they saw law enforcement
 - 450+ arrested on federal lands.
 - 2,500 pounds of drugs seized
- Secretary Zinke launched the first-ever Joint Law Enforcement Task Force on Opioids, focusing on Indian Country. Led by Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Justice Services, the task force partners with federal, state, tribal and local law enforcement to conduct multi-month undercover operations and stings to get drugs and dealers off the streets. The first year of the task force saw eight undercover operations resulting in millions of dollars' worth of illegal drugs seized and hundreds of arrests, including:
 - North Carolina Eastern Band of Cherokee: Eight month undercover operation and week-long sting resulting in 100+ arrests and yielding 248 pounds of illegal substances (\$2 million estimated in street value).
 - New Mexico, San Felipe Pueblo Indian Reservation: An August 2018 routine traffic stop conducted by task force-trained BIA agent seized 17 lbs. of heroin and methamphetamine.
 - Arizona, Gila River Reservation and Tohono O'odham Reservation: A May 2018 operation seizing 9,050 Fentanyl pills, 48.2 pounds of methamphetamine, 1.2 pounds of heroin, 863 pounds of marijuana, one-half pound of cocaine, and \$30,000 in cash. In total, the drug bust yielded a seizure of 913.5 pounds of illegal narcotics, with a street value of approximately \$4,791,417.00, and led to 86 total arrests.
 - New Mexico, Pueblo Tribes: An April 2018 operation seized 49 pounds of methamphetamine with a street value of \$2.5 million and more than \$20,000 worth of marijuana, plus smaller amounts of heroin, and other narcotics.

- Helping end the crisis of violence against Native American women and girls.
 - Partnered with the U.S. National Missing and Unidentified Persons System to create new data fields that specifically capture tribal affiliation type. This partnership will assist law enforcement in tracking and investigating missing Native persons – it will particularly help in the search for missing Native women and girls.
 - Announced a massive expansion of the Justice Department's Tribal Access Program, enhancing access to background checks and improving justice across Indian Country.
 - Working as tri-lateral partners on a Violence Against Women Task Force with Mexico and Canada – the Task Force is a unified tribal voice opposed to violent crimes perpetrated against Native women.
- Issued a Secretarial Order on forest management to thin fuel loads for wildfires.
- Executing the President's plan to end our nation's dependence on foreign-mined rare earth "critical minerals".
- First-ever Presidential Emergency Declaration for a tribal nation: the Seminole Tribe of Florida after Hurricane Irma.
- Worked cooperatively with FEMA in response to hurricanes and typhoons that impacted U.S. territories and citizens in the Caribbean and Pacific including in Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the United States Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.
- Completed the funding of the Compact of Free Association for the Republic of Palau.

Improving Access to Public Lands: America's public lands are for the benefit and enjoyment of the people; under President Trump and Secretary Zinke, this American conservation ethic is back.

- Rightsized Bears Ears National Monument and Grand Staircase National Monument; and in the process, restored 2 million acres of Federal land in Utah to traditional multiple-use and corrected Federal overreach by previous presidents.
- Established Camp Nelson National Monument in Kentucky, which honors escaped slaves who fought for the Union Army in the Civil War in accordance with the original spirit of the Antiquities Act which calls for the area to be confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the object to be protected

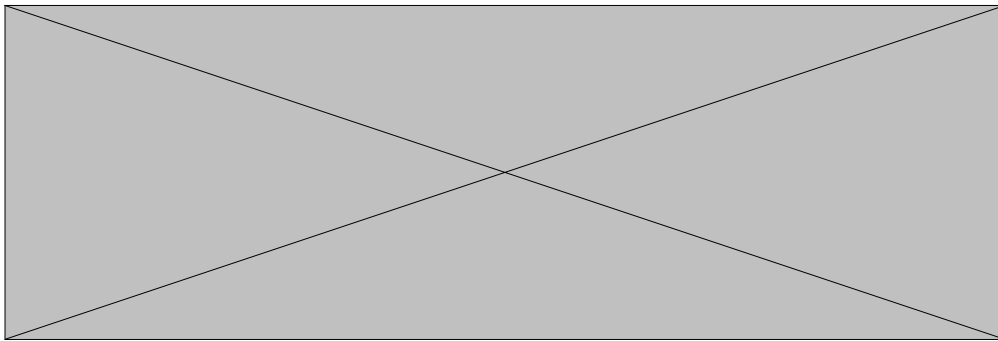
- Increased hunting and fishing access on more than 5 million acres of federally-owned land, to include National Park sites, Bureau of Land Management Wilderness Areas, and more than 30 National Wildlife Refuges.
- Approved a life-saving road for residents of the Native village of King Cove, Alaska.
- Proposed the Public Lands Infrastructure Fund to rebuild infrastructure on public lands like National Parks and National Wildlife Refuges. Bipartisan legislation in Congress supports the plan.
- After a quarter million acres of grazing land was burned in a wildfire, Secretary Zinke opened up the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge for emergency cattle grazing, allowing ranching families to keep their ranch and improving the health and resiliency of the refuge.
- Following the deadly hurricanes of 2017, the Interior Department expedited efforts to reopen National Parks on the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico ahead of the busy 2017 Christmas tourism season to support the islands' economic recovery.

Telling America's Story: President Trump and Secretary Zinke are preserving America's diverse history through the designation and recognition of historic sites.

- Established Camp Nelson National Monument in Kentucky, which honors escaped slaves who fought for the Union Army in the Civil War.
- Designated as part of the African American Civil Rights Network:
 - The historic A.P. Tureaud Home in New Orleans, Louisiana
 - The Medgar and Myrlie Evers Home in Jackson, Mississippi, where Medgar was assassinated and was one of the events that led to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
 - A mural depicting civil rights icon and singer Marian Anderson's 1939 performance at the Lincoln Memorial
 - The Lorraine Motel, where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated
 - The Landmark for Peace Memorial in Indianapolis' Martin Luther King, Jr. Park
- Paired President Trump's first quarter salary donation with both public and private dollars to restore historic sites at Antietam National Battlefield.

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-12-14T16:22:37-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: BIDDING BONANZA! Trump Administration Smashes Record for Offshore Wind Auction with \$405 Million in Winning Bids
Received: 2018-12-14T16:23:08-05:00

An "all of the above" approach to American energy dominance!!



Date: December 14, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov
Solomon Odom (BOEM), 703-787-1659

BIDDING BONANZA! Trump Administration Smashes Record for Offshore Wind Auction with \$405 Million in Winning Bids

Three companies claim winning bids for Massachusetts offshore wind. Areas could support approximately 4.1 gigawatts of commercial wind generation, enough to power nearly 1.5 million homes.

WASHINGTON – U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke and Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Acting Director Walter Cruickshank today announced the completion of the nation's eighth and highest grossing competitive lease sale for renewable energy in federal waters. Today's lease sale offered approximately 390,000 acres offshore Massachusetts for potential wind energy development and drew competitive winning bids from three companies totaling approximately \$405 million in winning bids. If fully developed, the areas could support approximately 4.1 gigawatts of commercial wind generation, enough electricity to power nearly 1.5 million homes.

"To anyone who doubted that our ambitious vision for energy dominance would not include

renewables, today we put that rumor to rest,” **said Secretary Zinke**. “With bold leadership, faster, streamlined environmental reviews, and a lot of hard work with our states and fishermen, we’ve given the wind industry the confidence to think and bid big.”

The provisional winners of today’s lease sale are:

<u>Provisional Winner</u>	<u>Lease Area</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Winning Bid</u>
Equinor Wind US, LLC	OCS-A 0520	128,811	\$135,000,000.00
Mayflower Wind Energy, LLC	OCS-A 0521	127,388	\$135,000,000.00
Vineyard Wind, LLC	OCS-A 0522	132,370	\$135,000,000.00

The following companies participated in today’s lease sale:

- Cobra Industrial Services, Inc.
- East Wind, LLC
- EC&R Development, LLC
- EDF Renewables Development, Inc.
- Equinor Wind US, LLC
- Innogy US Renewable Projects, LLC
- Mayflower Wind Energy, LLC
- Northeast Wind Energy, LLC
- PNE WIND USA, Inc.
- Vineyard Wind, LLC
- wpd offshore Alpha, LLC

The three lease areas auctioned today are located 19.8 nautical miles from Martha’s Vineyard, 16.7 nautical miles from Nantucket, and 44.5 nautical miles from Block Island. A map of the lease areas can be [found here](#).

“This auction will further the Administration’s comprehensive effort to secure the nation’s energy future,” **said BOEM Acting Director Cruickshank**. “The Commonwealth of Massachusetts and members of the Massachusetts Renewable Energy Task Force have been great partners throughout this process. We look forward to working with them and the lessees as we move forward with next steps for developing offshore wind energy in a responsible manner.”

Before the lease is executed, the Department of Justice and Federal Trade Commission will conduct an anti-competitiveness review of the auction, and the provisional winner will be required to pay the winning bid and provide financial assurance to BOEM.

The lease will have a preliminary term of one year, during which the lessee may submit a Site Assessment Plan (SAP) to BOEM for approval. The SAP will describe the facilities (e.g.,

meteorological towers or buoys) a lessee plans to install or deploy for the assessment of the wind resources and ocean conditions of its commercial lease area.

Following approval of a SAP, the lessee will then have four and a half years to submit a Construction and Operations Plan (COP) to BOEM for approval. This plan will provide a detailed proposal for the construction and operation of a wind energy project within the lease area.

Once BOEM receives a COP, it will conduct an environmental review of the proposed project and reasonable alternatives. Public input will be an important part of BOEM's review process. If BOEM approves the COP, the lessee will then have a term of 33 years to construct and operate the project.

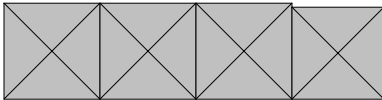
Before today's lease sale, the highest grossing offshore wind lease sale was held in December 2016 for the lease area offshore New York that received a winning bid of over \$42 million.

After today's auction, BOEM has 15 active wind leases. These lease sales have generated more than \$473 million in winning bids for nearly two million acres in federal waters. Money received from offshore wind lease sales go to the United States Treasury.

For more information on today's auction, visit BOEM's webpage:

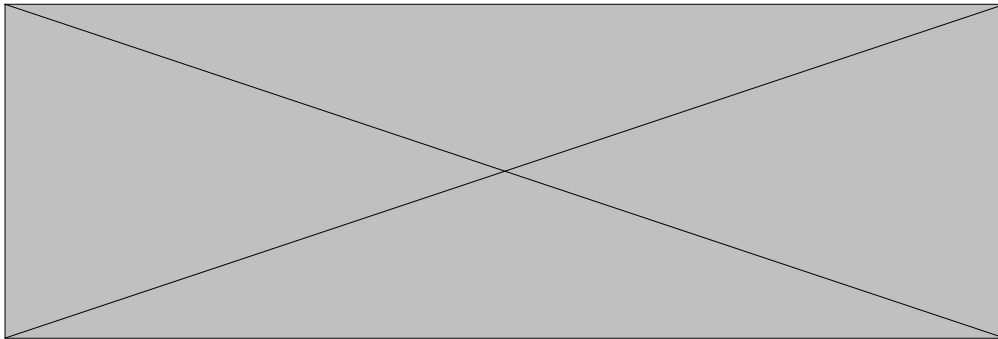
<https://www.boem.gov/Massachusetts/>

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From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-12-20T14:01:28-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: BLM Alaska Releases Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program
Received: 2018-12-20T14:02:05-05:00

The golden era of American energy dominance is upon us!!



Date: December 20, 2018
Contact: blm_press@blm.gov

BLM Alaska Releases Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program

A Draft EIS is the next step in responsible path forward to fulfilling obligations under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-97)

ANCHORAGE – In furthering the Trump Administration's goals of responsibly developing our natural resources, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) today released the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program for public review and comment. This action comes nearly one year to the day of the signing of the landmark Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which included a mandate that the U.S. Secretary of the Interior establish a program for the development of the Coastal Plain.

Congress specifically identified the Coastal Plain for its potential for oil and natural gas resources in Section 1002 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 (ANILCA). Oil and gas from the Coastal Plain is an important resource for meeting our nation's energy demands and creating employment opportunities for Alaska's North Slope residents.

"An energy-dominant America starts with an energy-dominant Alaska, and among the scores of accomplishments we have had at Interior under President Donald J. Trump, taking these steps toward opening the 1002 section of Alaska's North Slope stands out among the most impactful toward bolstering America's economic strength and security," **said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke**. "For decades, Alaskans on both sides of the aisle have overwhelmingly

supported opening the 1002 to energy exploration and development. I commend the President for giving Alaskans a voice again in how their public lands are used and for his commitment to responsible development of the Coastal Plain."

"This draft reflects thousands of hours of work that demonstrate a commitment to the development of these documents and the range of alternatives," **said Deputy Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt**. "We look forward to a very robust public comment period to better inform our final decision."

"A 1987 Interior report to Congress fulfilling our requirements under ANILCA recommended the Coastal Plain for oil and gas development. Since completion of that report, numerous oil fields have been discovered near the Coastal Plain and oil field technologies have changed significantly," **said Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Land and Minerals Management Joe Balash**. "The depth of expertise in arctic resources and issues from tribal members, state, local and federal agency staff was integral in developing a comprehensive Draft Environmental Impact Statement."

The publication of the Environmental Protection Agency's Notice of Availability in the Federal Register on Dec. 28, 2018, will officially begin the 45-day public comment period. The release of the Draft EIS is the next step in implementing the provisions in the Tax Act for establishing and administering a competitive oil and gas program for the leasing, development, production, and transportation of oil and gas in and from the Coastal Plain area within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

"Alaskans have anticipated the release of the draft environmental statement for decades," **said Alaska Gov. Michael J. Dunleavy**. "My administration and Alaskans overwhelmingly support ANWR development, and we are eager to inform and educate our fellow Americans that it will be done utilizing the highest environmental standards and safeguards to protect its land, waters and wildlife."

"Continuing engagement with the communities most affected by this process is key in developing a comprehensive analysis," **said acting State Director Ted Murphy**. "We received substantial input in the development of this draft from cooperating agencies and stakeholders throughout Alaska, our nation and Canada, and I look forward to continuing that engagement in this comment period."

The first lease sale will be held after the Final EIS and Record of Decision is issued and will offer not fewer than 400,000 acres area-wide of high-potential lands for bid.

The BLM is seeking feedback on the alternatives to the proposed action within the parameters outlined in the Tax Act, which will inform the Final EIS and the Record of Decision. Substantive comments should be as specific as possible and can be submitted by a variety of methods. The BLM will hold public meetings in: Anchorage, Arctic Village, Fairbanks, Kaktovik, Fort Yukon, Venetie, Utqiagvik and Washington, D.C., at times and locations to be announced in local media, newspapers, and on the BLM website.

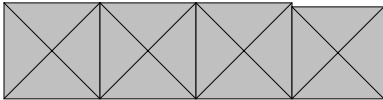
Comments on the Draft EIS will be accepted through Feb. 11 and can be sent by any of the following methods:

- **Website:** www.blm.gov/alaska
- **Mail:**

Attn: Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program EIS
222 West 7th Avenue, Stop #13
Anchorage, Alaska 99513.

Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the BLM Alaska State Office, BLM Alaska Public Information Center, 222 West 7th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99513.

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From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-12-21T17:45:14-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Department of the Interior's 2018 Accomplishments
Received: 2018-12-21T17:45:48-05:00
[DOI FY18 Accomplishments.pdf](#)

Esteemed Colleagues,
Since securing our southern border and keeping the American people safe is a top priority for this President and Administration, I will be unavailable during the duration of the upcoming government "shut down."

However as Secretary Zinke's final days are also ahead of us, I want to remind everyone about all the wonderful work the Secretary, Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt, and the DOI team has accomplished in 2018.

Feel free to share these accomplishments through social media, press releases, public statements, and op-eds throughout the next few weeks.

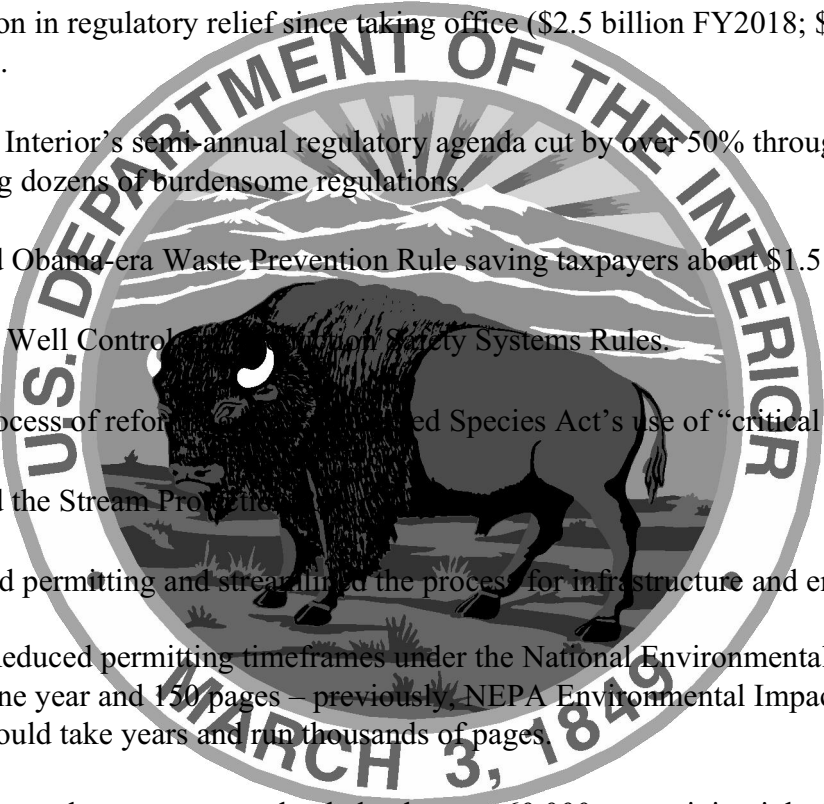
We look forward to many more accomplishments in 2019!

Merry Christmas,

Jason Funes
Special Assistant
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5541
Cell: (202) 897-7189

The Department of the Interior under the first two years of President Trump & Secretary Zinke

Pursuing Bold Regulatory Relief: Interior is a top performer when it comes to cutting red tape and regulatory costs.

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 - Signed a Secretarial Order (S.O. 3368) to end the practice of "Sue and Settle" litigation.
 - Revised the government's interpretation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act on the topic of incidental take, curbing regulatory overreach.

Achieving American Energy Dominance: Thanks to stronger markets, regulatory reform, and a bold energy policy, the United States is the global leader in oil and gas production and federal energy revenues have increased by \$3 billion since President Trump and Secretary Zinke took office.

- 2018 was the second straight year of growth in federal energy revenues from production on federal and American Indian lands and offshore areas.

- FY2017 – \$7.11 billion, an increase of nearly \$1 billion over President Obama’s last year in office.
- FY2018 – \$8.93 Billion an increase of nearly \$2 billion since FY17 and an increase of \$3 billion since Obama’s last year in office.
- Interior is tapping into Alaska’s energy potential, opening up the 1002 section of the ANWR (as part of the President’s historic tax cuts bill)
- Approved the first-ever oil and gas production facility in federal waters off Alaska.
- Interior held a record-shattering oil and gas lease sale on Federal lands in New Mexico grossing nearly \$1 billion; the two-day sale brought in more revenue than all federal onshore oil and gas sales in 2017 combined.
- Cut the time it takes to approve projects on Federal lands by almost 100 days. (from 260 days in FY 2017 to 170 days in FY18 for our combined AFMSS 1 and 2 permits, per BLM).
- Scrapped the Obama-era mining moratorium on federal lands.
- Rescinded the Hydraulic Fracturing Rule.
- Crafted a regulatory environment that helped create 60,000 new mining jobs in 2018.
- Initiated a new Offshore Oil and Natural Gas leasing plan to unleash the power of the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf.
- Announced first-ever record of Joint Federal Decision, executing on President Trump’s One Federal Decision vision.
- Streamlining approval for offshore wind energy projects and opening up more areas to offshore wind.

Keeping America Safe: The Department of the Interior oversees 40-percent of the land on the U.S.-Mexico border. Previous administrations have left this mostly unpatrolled and created a dangerous corridor for illegal activity. The Department is also home to more than 4,000 federal law enforcement officials. Secretary Zinke and President Trump are utilizing these officers to their full potential, and ensuring that Interior puts the safety of the American people first in a variety of ways.

- In May 2018, Zinke deployed a surge of DOI law enforcement officers to the U.S.-Mexico border to support President Trump's mission to secure the border. This resulted in a nearly 4,000-percent increase in arrests of illegal aliens from the Obama Administration to the Trump Administration's new law enforcement posture.
 - May - October 2016: total of 126 illegal aliens apprehended and turned over to the USBP by DOI LEO's.
 - May - October 2018: Total of 4,010 illegal aliens apprehended and turned over to the USBP by DOI LEO's. (Surge period)
 - Since the beginning of the surge efforts, DOI law enforcement have recorded the following:
 - 4,000+ arrests
 - 220+ turned around were coming into the U.S., but turned around when they saw law enforcement
 - 450+ arrested on federal lands.
 - 2,500 pounds of drugs seized
- Secretary Zinke launched the first-ever Joint Law Enforcement Task Force on Opioids, focusing on Indian Country. Led by Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Justice Services, the task force partners with federal, state, tribal and local law enforcement to conduct multi-month undercover operations and stings to get drugs and dealers off the streets. The first year of the task force saw eight undercover operations resulting in millions of dollars' worth of illegal drugs seized and hundreds of arrests, including:
 - North Carolina Eastern Band of Cherokee: Eight month undercover operation and week-long sting resulting in 100+ arrests and yielding 248 pounds of illegal substances (\$2 million estimated in street value).
 - New Mexico, San Felipe Pueblo Indian Reservation: An August 2018 routine traffic stop conducted by task force-trained BIA agent seized 17 lbs. of heroin and methamphetamine.
 - Arizona, Gila River Reservation and Tohono O'odham Reservation: A May 2018 operation seizing 9,050 Fentanyl pills, 48.2 pounds of methamphetamine, 1.2 pounds of heroin, 863 pounds of marijuana, one-half pound of cocaine, and \$30,000 in cash. In total, the drug bust yielded a seizure of 913.5 pounds of illegal narcotics, with a street value of approximately \$4,791,417.00, and led to 86 total arrests.
 - New Mexico, Pueblo Tribes: An April 2018 operation seized 49 pounds of methamphetamine with a street value of \$2.5 million and more than \$20,000 worth of marijuana, plus smaller amounts of heroin, and other narcotics.

- Helping end the crisis of violence against Native American women and girls.
 - Partnered with the U.S. National Missing and Unidentified Persons System to create new data fields that specifically capture tribal affiliation type. This partnership will assist law enforcement in tracking and investigating missing Native persons – it will particularly help in the search for missing Native women and girls.
 - Announced a massive expansion of the Justice Department's Tribal Access Program, enhancing access to background checks and improving justice across Indian Country.
 - Working as tri-lateral partners on a Violence Against Women Task Force with Mexico and Canada – the Task Force is a unified tribal voice opposed to violent crimes perpetrated against Native women.
- Issued a Secretarial Order on forest management to thin fuel loads for wildfires.
- Executing the President's plan to end our nation's dependence on foreign-mined rare earth "critical minerals".
- First-ever Presidential Emergency Declaration for a tribal nation: the Seminole Tribe of Florida after Hurricane Irma.
- Worked cooperatively with FEMA in response to hurricanes and typhoons that impacted U.S. territories and citizens in the Caribbean and Pacific including in Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the United States Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.
- Completed the funding of the Compact of Free Association for the Republic of Palau.

Improving Access to Public Lands: America's public lands are for the benefit and enjoyment of the people; under President Trump and Secretary Zinke, this American conservation ethic is back.

- Rightsized Bears Ears National Monument and Grand Staircase National Monument; and in the process, restored 2 million acres of Federal land in Utah to traditional multiple-use and corrected Federal overreach by previous presidents.
- Established Camp Nelson National Monument in Kentucky, which honors escaped slaves who fought for the Union Army in the Civil War in accordance with the original spirit of the Antiquities Act which calls for the area to be confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the object to be protected

- Increased hunting and fishing access on more than 5 million acres of federally-owned land, to include National Park sites, Bureau of Land Management Wilderness Areas, and more than 30 National Wildlife Refuges.
- Approved a life-saving road for residents of the Native village of King Cove, Alaska.
- Proposed the Public Lands Infrastructure Fund to rebuild infrastructure on public lands like National Parks and National Wildlife Refuges. Bipartisan legislation in Congress supports the plan.
- After a quarter million acres of grazing land was burned in a wildfire, Secretary Zinke opened up the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge for emergency cattle grazing, allowing ranching families to keep their ranch and improving the health and resiliency of the refuge.
- Following the deadly hurricanes of 2017, the Interior Department expedited efforts to reopen National Parks on the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico ahead of the busy 2017 Christmas tourism season to support the islands' economic recovery.

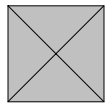
Telling America's Story: President Trump and Secretary Zinke are preserving America's diverse history through the designation and recognition of historic sites.

- Established Camp Nelson National Monument in Kentucky, which honors escaped slaves who fought for the Union Army in the Civil War.
- Designated as part of the African American Civil Rights Network:
 - The historic A.P. Tureaud Home in New Orleans, Louisiana
 - The Medgar and Myrlie Evers Home in Jackson, Mississippi, where Medgar was assassinated and was one of the events that led to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
 - A mural depicting civil rights icon and singer Marian Anderson's 1939 performance at the Lincoln Memorial
 - The Lorraine Motel, where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated
 - The Landmark for Peace Memorial in Indianapolis' Martin Luther King, Jr. Park
- Paired President Trump's first quarter salary donation with both public and private dollars to restore historic sites at Antietam National Battlefield.

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2019-02-04T19:46:05-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: ICYMI - David Bernhardt to become New Secretary of the Interior
Received: 2019-02-04T19:46:34-05:00

The Trump/Zinke/Interior Train Keeps Rollin' On...
Our DOI mission continues under our "new" Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt!

<https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump>



Donald J. Trump [@realDonaldTrump](#)

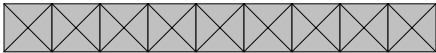
[Follow @realDonaldTrump](#)

I am pleased to announce that David Bernhardt, Acting Secretary of the Interior, will be nominated as Secretary of the Interior. David has done a fantastic job from the day he arrived, and we look forward to having his nomination officially confirmed!

12:13 PM - 4 Feb 2019

11,337 Retweets

57,888 Likes



9,502 replies **11,337** retweets **57,888** likes

9.5K

11K

58K

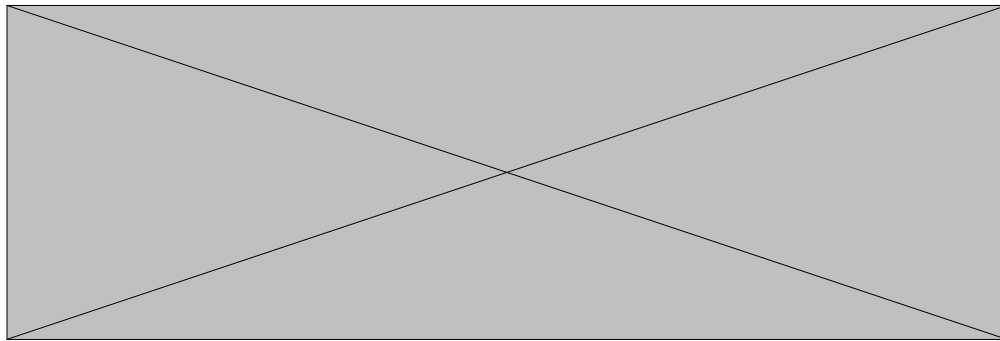
Jason Funes

**Special Assistant
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5541
Cell: (202) 897-7189**

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2019-02-06T18:08:54-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Energy Revolution Unleashed: Interior Shatters Previous Records with \$1.1 Billion in 2018 Oil and Gas Lease Sales
Received: 2019-02-06T18:09:41-05:00

The pathway to American energy dominance is through the Department of the Interior!!

Remember that when oil and gas lease sales and production royalties are generated on federal lands, nearly half of that money goes back to that respective state...



Date: February 6, 2019
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Energy Revolution Unleashed: Interior Shatters Previous Records with \$1.1 Billion in 2018 Oil and Gas Lease Sales

*\$500 million of that revenue has gone back to states,
providing support to key institutions like hospitals and public schools*

HOBBS, N.M. – Acting Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt today announced that Interior Bureau of Land Management (BLM) state offices generated \$1.1 billion from oil and gas lease sales in calendar year 2018, an amount nearly equal to the BLM’s budget for Fiscal Year 2018, and the highest-grossing year on record, nearly tripling what had been the agency’s highest year ever in 2008, which generated approximately \$408 million. Bonus bids from the 28 oil and gas lease sales held in calendar year 2018 came to \$1,151,109,064 in preliminary figures released today by the BLM. Among these, a total of 1,412 parcels, covering almost 1.5 million acres, were leased.

“Responsible production of domestic energy keeps energy prices low for American families and businesses, reduces our dependence on foreign oil, creates American jobs, and generates billions of dollars in revenue to the Federal Treasury,” **said Acting Secretary of the Interior Bernhardt.** “The President’s visionary address last night has set the stage for this

Administration's second act on American energy dominance. With a bold, new approach to energy development, and a President who recognizes that conventional wisdom is meant to be challenged, we are starting to see what a great America looks like."

"This was a historic year for oil and gas, and clearly illustrates what is possible when public lands are put to work using innovation, best science, and best practices," **said Brian Steed, BLM Deputy Director for Policy and Programs.** "Our sound energy policy continues to ensure reliable, safe, abundant, and affordable energy for all Americans, without putting unnecessary burdens on industry. In fact, this policy generated nearly as much revenue as the BLM's \$1.1 billion budget for 2018."

BLM New Mexico had the largest lease sale of 2018, generating approximately \$972 million in bonus bids for 142 parcels. The two-day lease sale, held in September, brought in more revenue than all BLM oil and gas lease sales in 2017 combined and broke all previous records. A bonus bid is a one-time payment in exchange for exclusive access to explore for hydrocarbons on a parcel and grants an exclusive lease for a set period of time.

Individual states also benefit from the BLM's lease sales. Forty-eight percent of lease sale revenue goes to the state while the rest goes to the U.S. Treasury. The state also receives half of the revenue from royalties if oil and gas is developed on the lease.

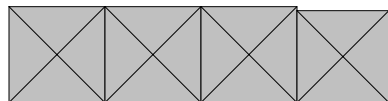
By statute, the BLM is required to offer quarterly oil and gas leases sales of available Federal lands. BLM state offices conduct lease sales quarterly when parcels are available for lease. These lease sales represent parcels that cleared environmental review and public comment. The BLM issues both competitive and noncompetitive leases for a 10-year period. The leases are a contract to explore and develop any potential oil and gas. The leases may earn an extension if the lessee establishes production, otherwise they pay annual rentals.

The BLM is a key contributor to the Trump Administration's America-First Energy Plan, which is an all-of-the-above plan that includes oil and gas, coal, strategic minerals, and renewable sources such as wind, geothermal, and solar – all of which can be produced on public lands.

In 2017, oil and gas lease sales generated \$358 million. Oil and gas development on BLM-managed lands supported 284,000 jobs in fiscal year 2017 and contributed \$59.6 billion in output to the U.S. economy.

In 2019, the BLM is scheduled to hold 28 oil and gas lease sales.

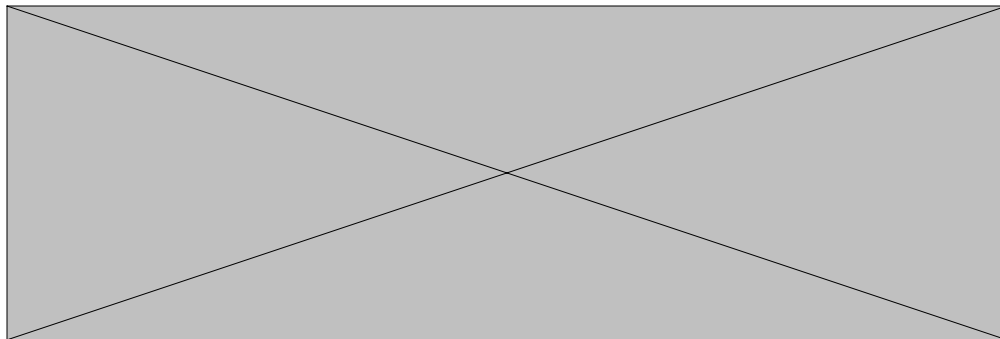
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From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2019-02-15T11:36:07-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: The War on Coal is Over: Interior Announces Historic Coal Projects in Utah
Received: 2019-02-15T11:36:39-05:00

Beautiful clean coal is back!!

Stay tuned for a DOI bi-weekly newsletter coming soon...



Date: February 14, 2019
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

The War on Coal is Over: Interior Announces Historic Coal Projects in Utah

Approvals advance the Trump Administration's goal of American energy wealth, creating jobs to help communities prosper

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of the Interior announced today the Bureau of Land Management's approval of two historic mining projects in Utah – the \$12.3 million Alton Coal Tract coal lease in Kane County, Utah, and two coal lease modification proposals for the SUFCO Mine in Sevier County, which will extend the life of the existing mine by up to five years. These approvals will further the Administration's energy dominance and economic prosperity goals, leveraging American energy wealth and creating jobs in Utah communities.

Through the continued approval of coal lease applications and modifications, the BLM has been able to support the success of coal development on federal lands – including the Alton and SUFCO coal mines. [Secretarial Order 3348](#) made these actions possible by overturning the 2016 moratorium on all new coal leases on federal land. The projects approved today will help foster Utah's continued economic expansion through access to premier natural resources in the most efficient and responsible manner possible.

"American coal jobs matter," said Acting U.S. Secretary of the Interior David

Bernhardt. “Coal production on federal lands provides nearly 40 percent of our nation’s coal. By approving these projects today, we will ensure that these mines are operational for years to come, providing well-paying jobs and affordable energy to the people of Utah.”

"The war on coal is over, and the Trump Administration is committed to facilitating much-needed job creation and energy production," **said Assistant Secretary Joe Balash.** "In coal towns across this country, the American dream is alive and well."

“The previous administration tried to kill coal production in Utah but this administration is committed to bringing the industry back,” **said Senator Mike Lee.** “That’s why coal production in Utah increased in 2017 for the first time in three years. These two new coal projects are a huge win for Utah jobs, Utah consumers, and the Utah economy.”

“This lease agreement will bring jobs and generate revenue to support the local economy in Kane and Garfield counties, while also protecting our natural resources,” **said Senator Mitt Romney.** “Responsible energy development is important to Utah’s energy industry and rural economies, and I appreciate the cooperative efforts of the Bureau of Land Management and community partners to bring this project to fruition.”

“The approval of new leases on federal lands in Utah reiterates that coal will remain a staple of power production in our country, and an important economic driver for local communities,” **said Congressman Rob Bishop.** “Not only will this coal contribute to our nation’s baseload power supply, it will provide nearly 500 direct and indirect Utah jobs and help fund education. I commend the Department for ensuring our nation’s federal lands are utilized in meaningful ways that contribute to our nation’s energy security.”

“Alton Coal is an economic engine that provides good-paying jobs that benefit the entire region,” **said Congressman Chris Stewart.** “This lease is a big win for my constituents. It will allow for additional growth and create more jobs that can support families year round. I’m grateful for the leadership of Acting Secretary Bernhardt on this issue.”

I am glad to hear about this lease, which will bring new jobs and opportunities to southern Utah,” **said Congressman John Curtis.** “I look forward to working with Acting Secretary Bernhardt, and the Administration more broadly, on policies that ensure a safe and reliable energy system for all Americans.”

On Nov. 28, 2018, the BLM-Utah state office held a competitive sale of federal coal on approximately 2,114 acres 30 miles south of Panguitch near Alton, Utah. The tract contains approximately 40.9 million tons of in-place coal and an estimated 30.8 million tons of recoverable coal. The bid of \$12,320,000 by Alton Coal Development, LLC, was determined to be the high and acceptable bid ensuring fair market value for the coal.

The lease covers a total of 3,581 acres of federal mineral estate, of which 2,305 acres of the surface are BLM-administered and 1,276 acres are in private surface ownership by eight private landowners. Based on an estimated two million tons of production annually, this lease could directly create over 100 new jobs at the mine and indirectly increase employment by 240 to 480 jobs, including fuel providers, and positions in maintenance, grocery stores, and retail stores.

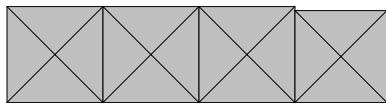
The successful lessee would be required to obtain additional federal, state, and local approval to develop, mine, and operate facilities on the affected public lands. The lessee or the operator cannot construct or operate a coal mine without the appropriate licenses and permits from the Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation, and Enforcement or the affected state and local governments, as required by the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977.

The SUFCO mine currently produces approximately 5-6 million tons of coal per year, with a very small surface footprint. The mine has been producing coal since 1941 and is one of the most productive and technologically advanced underground coal mines in the world. Coal produced by the mine provides for the annual electrical household needs of approximately three million people.

The SUFCO mine lease modifications will support employment for approximately 383 direct mining jobs. Assuming most mine employees and supporting employment would be within Sanpete and Sevier counties, these direct mine jobs represent some 3.6 percent of the non-farm employment levels in the counties. About 1,307 jobs in total would be created domestically through direct and induced economic activity.

The coal industry on public lands in Utah contributed \$748 million in total economic output in FY 2017.

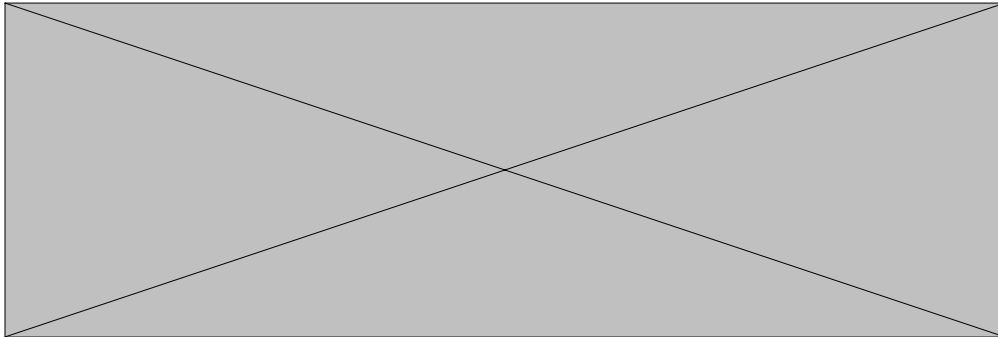
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From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2019-03-04T12:26:04-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Interior Partners with Private Land Owners to Fund Conservation Initiatives - Migration Corridors
Received: 2019-03-04T12:26:41-05:00

Conservation always has been and will continue to be a top priority for this administration and the DOI...



Date: March 1, 2019
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Interior Partners with Private Land Owners to Fund Conservation Initiatives

WASHINGTON – Today, Acting Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt announced that through continued implementation of [Secretarial Order 3362](#), “Improving Habitat Quality in Western Big-Game Winter Range and Migration Corridors” \$1.5 million in private land habitat projects were approved. The funding and technical support is provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Partners for Fish and Wildlife program.

“The important role that private lands play in conservation cannot be overstated,” said Acting Secretary Bernhardt. “Of course, our public lands play a pivotal role conserving habitat and migration corridors as well, but we must continue to be a good neighbor and all work together. The projects we are funding today will result in invaluable conservation to benefit mule deer, pronghorn, elk and other wildlife.”

Of the 11 states identified in the Order, 8 states submitted projects. The state funding breakdown is below:

- Arizona: \$200,000
- Colorado: \$100,000
- Idaho: \$245,190
- Montana: \$152,600
- Nevada: \$235,000
- New Mexico: \$75,000

- Washington: \$194,802
- Wyoming: \$293,800

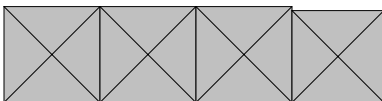
Over 42 projects were submitted for consideration and 22 are funded. Each project was required to have “approval” from a respective state wildlife agency official before it was considered for funding.

These funds will allow 119 miles of fence to be either removed or replaced with “wildlife friendly” fencing. Along with fencing projects, invasive species control and management, and habitat restoration work will result in positive impacts on over 44,000 acres.

As an example of projects funded, in Montana they will use cutting-edge technology through a pilot effort to manage grazing on a 25,000 acre ranch with electronic collars on livestock. The collars use solar power and satellite positioning technology to create a “virtual fence” which contains livestock without the need for a physical barrier. If the project shows success, we could have areas free of fences. This type of approach may not be appropriate for many ranch operations, but this pilot project will test the effectiveness in north-central Montana. This project area has been identified in the state’s [S.O. 3362](#) Action Plan as a priority for Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

Another project in South Central Wyoming is associated with an underpass along Highway 789 to ensure safe passage of mule deer during their migration. The overarching project will help reduce vehicle collisions with big game caused by increasing traffic patterns through a relatively narrow portion of the Baggs mule deer herd corridor. The funding provided through [Secretarial Order 3362](#) will assist with the overall landscape effort through the installation of wildlife-friendly fencing and upland restoration adjacent to the underpass. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department has identified this as a priority area and project partners include a strong mix of federal, state, non-governmental organizations, and private landowners.

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From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2019-03-28T12:07:40-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Acting Secretary Bernhardt Signs Order to Prioritize Implementation of Bipartisan Public Lands Bill
Received: 2019-03-28T12:08:08-04:00

****Your feedback is welcomed****

DOI is establishing a Departmental Task Force to implement the “Public Lands Package” and your feedback is welcomed.

Any suggestions you or your organization may have for implementing specific portions of this bill that you would like our task force to prioritize; please forward that information to me. Yet also feel free to call me with any suggestions, questions, or comments.

Jason Funes

Special Assistant

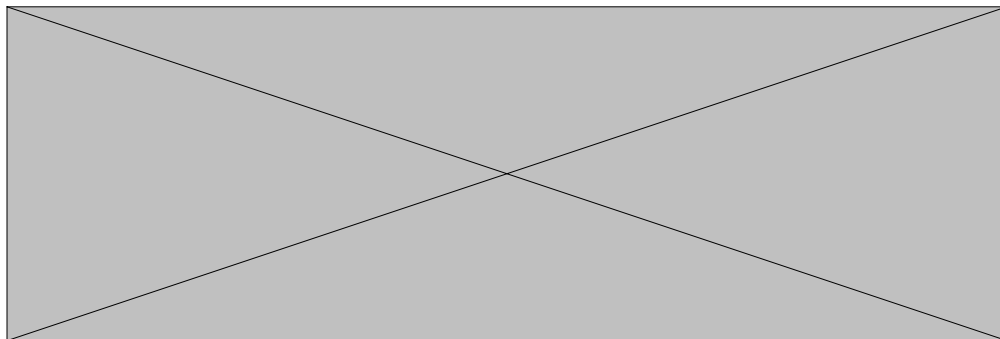
Intergovernmental and External Affairs

Office of the Secretary

Department of the Interior

Office: (202) 208-5541

Cell: (202) 897-7189



Date: March 28, 2019
Contact: interior_press@ios.doi.gov

Acting Secretary Bernhardt Signs Order to Prioritize Implementation of Bipartisan Public Lands Bill

WASHINGTON – Yesterday, U.S. Acting Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt signed a secretarial order to establish a Departmental task force to facilitate and prioritize the implementation of S. 47, the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act (Dingell Act). The bill was made up of more than 100 individual bills that were introduced by 50 Senators and several House members. The Interior Department had advocated for in concept or worked with Members of Congress on many of the individual provisions that made up the package.

Secretarial Order 3374, Implementation of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act establishes a task force to ensure the timely and coordinated implementation of the Dingell Act and consistency among all offices and Bureaus within the Department of the Interior.

“We are taking a concrete step to ensure the Department efficiently and fully implements the most comprehensive public lands management legislation in a decade,” **said Acting Secretary Bernhardt**. “We will continue to work to strike the proper balance for land and resources management, increase access for hunting, fishing, and recreation, and create economic prosperity while protecting and preserving America’s treasures.”

“The entire recreation industry – from boating and fishing, hunting and snowmobiling, paddling and ORVing, skiing and climbing, to camping and biking – came together to support the passage of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act, a monumental win for the recreation economy and outdoor enthusiasts across the country,” **said Outdoor Recreation Roundtable Executive Director Jessica Wahl**. “With today’s Secretarial Order, we look forward to the timely implementation of dozens of important recreation provisions that have been decades in the making, as well as partnering with the task force to ensure the full potential of this groundbreaking legislation is unlocked.”

“The Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation praises Acting Secretary Bernhardt and the Interior Department for prioritizing the John Dingell Lands Package through this important Secretarial Order,” **said Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation President Jeff Crane**. “S. 47 provides the most significant, positive advances for conservation as well as sportsmen’s access in a decade, and we look forward to working with the department and its bureaus during the implementation process.”

“Passage of John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act (S.47), which included provisions of the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps Act (21CSC), provides an opportunity to demonstrate a renewed commitment to a wide variety of conservation and recreation priorities for this Administration, including the engagement of youth, young adults, and veterans. We are pleased to see the establishment of a departmental task force to facilitate implementation of S.47. Our network stands ready to work with the task force and help make 21CSC a part of Interior’s conservation legacy,” **said the Corps Network President and CEO and Partnership for the 21CSC Co-Chair Mary Ellen Sprenkel**.

Background

The task force will be chaired by the Associate Deputy Secretary with membership consisting of the Assistant Secretary for Lands and Minerals Management, Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management, and Budget, Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Areas, and the Solicitor.

Secretarial Order 3374 lays out timeframes for the task force to identify actionable steps and milestones, create an implementation plan for the Dingell Act, and manage a tracking database to ensure the Department meets all timelines laid out the bipartisan public lands bill.

DOI is entrusted with the conservation and management of the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage for the benefit and enjoyment of the American people and future generations, which includes more than 500 million acres of Federal lands and resources.

About the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act

Throughout the Trump Administration, the Interior Department had advocated for in concept or worked with Members of Congress on many of the individual provisions that make up the Dingell Act. Below is a partial list of those proposals and actions the Administration has taken to advance these policies.

Department Proposed

Reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (Included as FY2019 Budget proposal)

Establishment of the Medgar and Myrlie Evers Home National Monument (December 2017 report on National Monuments)

Testified in support of provisions as written or with changes

- Reauthorization of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Historic Preservation Program
- Establishment of the Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie National Historical Park
- Alaska Native Veterans Land Allotment Equity Act
- Rio Puerco Watershed Management Committee Reauthorization
- Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks Conservation Act
- Udall Park Land Exchange Completion Act
- Endangered Fish Recovery Programs Extension Act
- Federal Closing Date for Hunting of Ducks, Mergansers, and Coots
- National Geologic Mapping Act Reauthorization
- Chugach Alaska Land Exchange Study
- San Juan County Settlement Implementation Act
- Acadia National Park Boundary Clarification Act
- Santa Ana River Wash Plan Land Exchange
- FDR Historic Preservation Act
- Reconstruction Era National Historical Park Act
- Pottawattamie County Reversionary Interest Conveyance Act
- Mill Springs Battlefield National Monument Act
- Helium Extraction Act
- Emery County Public Land Management Act
- Golden Spike 150th Anniversary Act
- La Paz County Land Conveyance Act
- Expansion of WaterSMART Program grants
- Deschutes Canyon-Steelhead Falls Wilderness Study Area Boundary Adjustment
- Robert Emmet Park Act
- World War II Pacific Sites Establishment Act
- Strengthening Coastal Communities Act

Departmental action to advance or support the concept or goal

- Public lands are "open unless closed" to hunting and fishing - The Department has expanding hunting and fishing opportunities on dozens of wildlife refuges and thousands more acres of other public lands
- Every Kid Outdoors Act - In 2018 the Department renewed the Every Kid in a Park program for a year, giving Congress more time to permanently authorize it
- Allows sportsmen to carry unarmed bows across National Park Service land – The Department finalized the rule in October 2018
- Identifies opportunities for recreation, hunting, and fishing on Federal lands - DOI initiated this process in a September 2017 Secretarial Order
- Camp Nelson National Monument - President Trump designated Camp Nelson as a national monument in October 2018
- African American Civil Rights Network Technical Corrections - The Department has designated a number of historic sites on the newly created network
- Develop shooting ranges on public lands - In 2018 the Department began the process to allow the Bureau of Land Management to manage appropriate public lands as target shooting ranges

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